

Saturday November 16 1996

Table with exchange rates for various countries including Albania, Andorra, Australia, etc.

The Guardian INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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46,712

Can campaigners change drugs 'n' clubs culture?

Isay yes you say no

Taking tea with Nicholas Scott MP

One more for the road



Sport

Can Manchester United stop the rot?

The Week page 22

High Court to rule on whether woman in near-vegetative state can be left to starve

Is a flicker of life enough?

Claire Dyer Legal Correspondent

HEALTH authority is poised to ask the High Court for the first time to allow the withdrawal of artificial feeding from a patient who is not in a permanent vegetative state.

In one case, according to a spokeswoman for the British Medical Association, the patient was "definitely not in a vegetative state."

The woman road traffic accident victim, who cannot be identified, has been diagnosed as "near vegetative" since a neurologist and a surgeon saw her eyes "tracking" the movement of an object.

The revelations came at a conference on PVS, jointly organised by the BMA, the Official Solicitor's office and the Centre for Medical Law and Ethics, King's College, London.

When we looked at vegetative patients, we thought that was a discrete condition and it wouldn't have applications for other cases," a spokeswoman said.

whether they are able to communicate. It's pointless being too pedantic about being in or out of the vegetative state," said Dr Andrews, medical director of the Royal Hospital for Neurodisability, Putney, south-west London.

In the case of Hillsborough disaster victim Tony Bland the Lords laid down that feeding should not be stopped without court approval.

— or is it that large numbers of doctors are doing what, on one view of the law, the House of Lords has told us is unlawful?

School pays £30,000 to victim of bullying

Claire Dyer

FORMER schoolboy accepted £30,000 compensation yesterday in what lawyers believe is the first successful court case brought over bullying.

Mr Sharp, who has a clerical job with a brokerage firm, was granted legal aid to bring the case.



Rwandan refugees head home yesterday after an attack broke militias' hold on Mugunga camp

Refugees flood back to Rwanda

Chris McGreal in Goma

HUNDREDS of thousands of Rwandan refugees abandoned their camps and streamed home yesterday after Zairean rebels and Rwandan soldiers broke the insidious control of Hutu extremist militias — and the deadlock of looming disaster in eastern Zaire.

two years ago, hordes of people choked miles of road as they headed towards Goma and the Rwandan border.

'I don't want £2.1m lottery jackpot — the fuss would finish me off'

Martin Walkerlight

NO PENSIONER in Hull was safe last night after the bizarre revelation that a £2.1 million National Lottery jackpot ticket is lying unopened on an elderly local widow's front room table.

Hull Daily Mail. The woman's letter said the winning ticket, from May 24, had been bought by her husband shortly before his death.

The woman then gave her age, courteously blanked out by the newspaper, and added: "So what would be the point of the money, I have no family or friends, just a helper. Sorry, but I don't wish to give my name. I am sure the fuss would finish me off."

at it — if only I could have my life over." The woman added that she hoped the millions could go to local hospitals in Hull because they "were kind and looked after my husband".

that the money would go automatically into the good causes pool if the woman failed to contact them.

Taryn Hilburn, of Camelot, said: "If she wanted to give all the money away, they could even help her do that. But she would have to accept the money from us first. We can't give it away on her behalf."

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The Guardian Europe's Quality Newspaper

2 CHRONICLE/NEWS

Hundreds of prisoners to be freed

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE first of more than 800 prisoners, mostly burglars and thieves, were released early last night after a devastating High Court judgment against the Home Secretary, Michael Howard.

Three judges, including the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham, ruled that the way the prison service had calculated release dates of inmates serving concurrent sentences had been unlawfully applied for 30 years. The Home Secretary was refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

The Prison Service was last night trying to complete a check on the sentencing records of all 58,000 inmates to establish exactly how many will qualify for release.

Early indications are that some 800 serving prisoners are likely to be affected, the Prisons Minister, Ann Widdecombe, said. "About 60 will be eligible for immediate release when sentence calculations have been completed. They are expected to be freed early next week.

Thousands more prisoners who have already ended their sentences are also likely to be entitled to compensation worth a total of up to £18 million. The size of the final bill, at about \$60 a day per person, will be capped by a six-year statute of limitations which means only those released after 1990 can claim. Probation officers estimate that on average these inmates spent five weeks too long in jail.

A decision on whether compensation will be paid is to be made later. "We were detaining them in accordance with the law laid down at the time.

So we are by no means ready to say that there's a blanket case for compensation," Miss Widdecombe said.

Labour's prisons spokesman, George Howarth, said the judgment added to Mr Howard's serial bungler reputation. "This week has seen the Home Secretary lose three times in the courts — twice in one morning — a unique achievement even for this Secretary of State," he said.

The inmates involved in the test cases were Michelle Carol Evans, who was serving two years for burglary, robbery and assault, and Paul Reid, jailed for two years and three months for burglary and handling stolen goods. Both were released within hours of the High Court judgment.

The ruling by Lord Bingham, Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Blizard follows the "great escape" over the summer when prisons had to release early 541 inmates serving consecutive sentences. A High Court victory for Mr Howard halting those releases paved the way for yesterday's decision.

Lord Bingham said that the whole mechanism for working out sentences was a mess: "The principle that a prisoner's release date should be beyond dispute, and that the provisions governing it should be easy to apply, is of great importance."

In fact the rules were "not clear to the courts, or the legal profession, or prisoners, or — it would seem — the prison authorities," he said. The ruling held that the system for calculating remand time to be deducted from multiple sentences was flawed. It only deducted time spent on remand for the most serious crimes, rather than the total time awaiting trial.

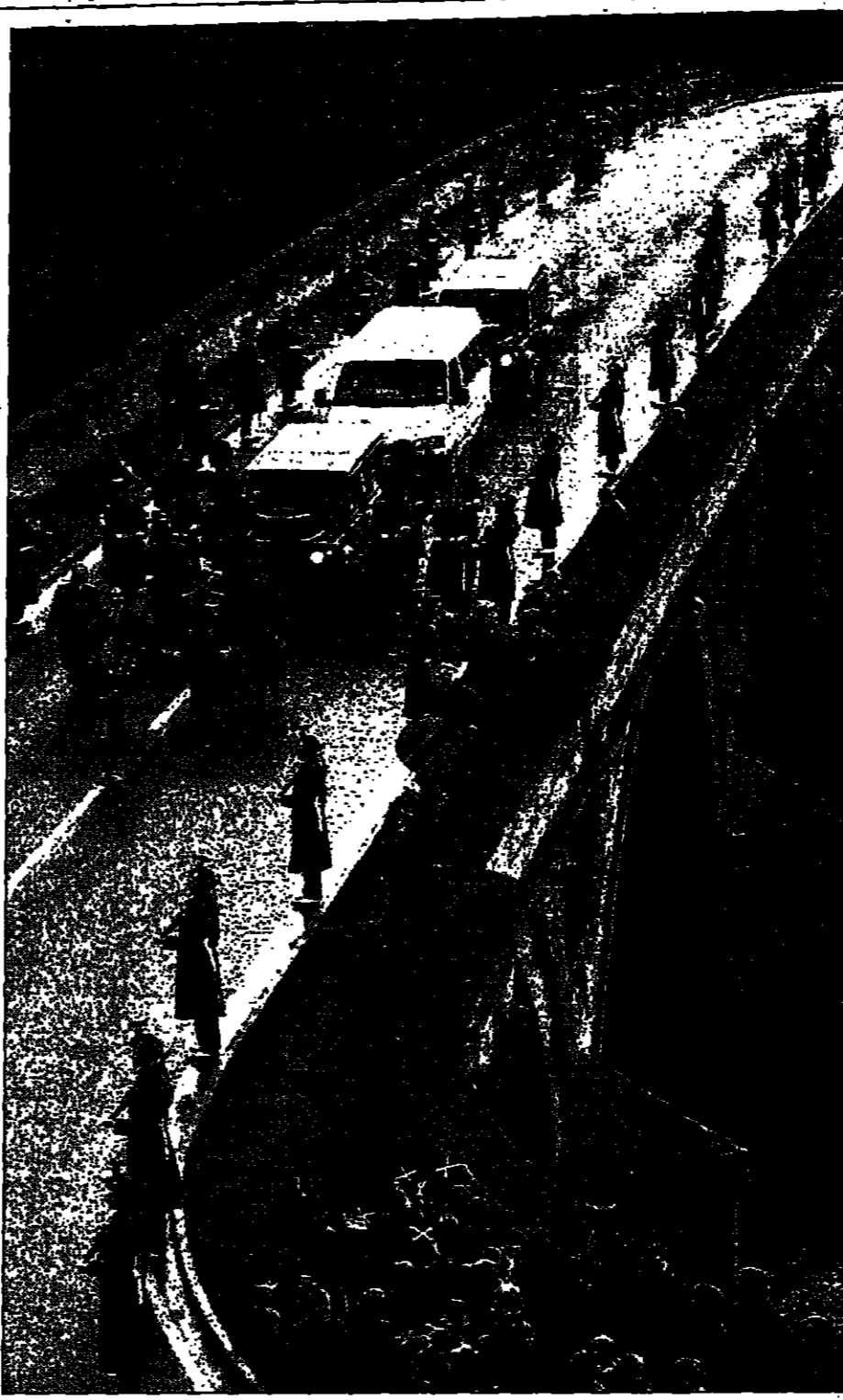
Happy return bridges history

Erland Clauson

THE Blue Box of Destiny was back in Scotland last night, safe from Plantagenet ghosts and nationalist cat burglars in the secure room of a government laboratory.

The box, lashed to the floorpan of a varnished army Land Rover, slipped back over the Tweed at 11.05am. The historic frontier ceremony was a moving advertisement for the stoicism of the Scottish race. Not only were the 2,000 assembled patriots forced to settle for the metallic box rather than what ever geological jinn it contained, but they had to wait an hour longer than scheduled for the privileges.

Scotland in general has been uncertain how to react to the return of its former coronation furniture. Pressed, most agree that it's nice to get something back from the English, but they are nervous of being portrayed as savages who can be bribed with a lump of quasi-scriptural rock.



Coming home... The stone crosses Coldstream's 230-year-old bridge PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD

'Wise men' give Kohl bad tidings on economy

Ian Traynor in Bonn

CHANCELLOR Helmut Kohl's European predicament worsened yesterday when economic advisers declared that Germany would fail to meet the key budget and debt criteria for the single European currency next year.

In a gloomy annual report on this year's economic performance and the prospects for next year, the government-commissioned committee of economic experts, known as the "five wise men", warned of soaring unemployment, flagging investment, and fiscal policy locked in a "vicious circle".

European Union countries could fail the single currency test next year, the council warned. It argued against funding the criteria, which could trigger a credibility crisis in the entire project. "Delay in this case is the required option. If it is apparent that the criteria cannot be credibly fulfilled in 1997, governments should announce a

postponement in good time to create clarity and to avoid surprises on the financial markets," the council said. Despite Kohl's earlier projected economic growth next year of 2.5 per cent, up one point on this year, the council said next year's budget deficit would be 3.3 per cent of gross domestic product — 10 per cent higher than the ceiling set for next year for qualification for the single currency in 1999. The scale of the deficit would also push the state debt-to-GDP ratio beyond the 60 per cent ceiling which is another single currency test.

Stressing the predictions of 2.5 per cent growth, Mr Kohl shrugged off doubts about Germany's fitness for economic and monetary union. The 1997 budget goes for its final reading in parliament later this month after clearing the parliamentary budget committee yesterday. The Finance Minister, Hans Eichel, has pledged that the federal deficit will not be allowed to exceed DM56.5 billion (22.5 billion) next year, guaranteeing an overall deficit of 2.5 per cent.

Rwandan exodus after attack

Continued from page 1

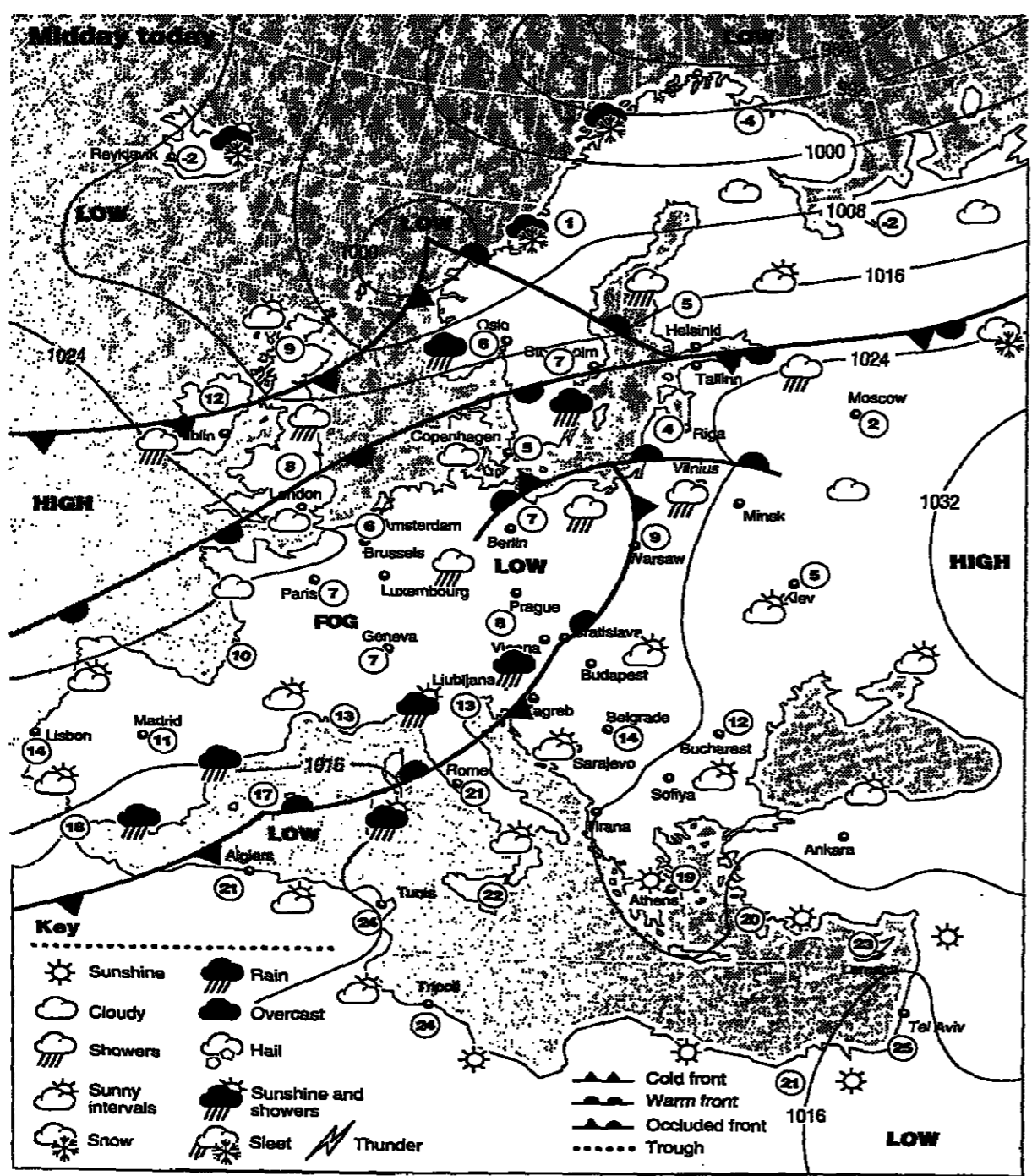
who have only ever known life in the camps. One man had nothing but a bible. Another had a full-grown man strapped to his back like a baby.

The exodus signalled the final collapse of Hutu extremist control over the bulk of the refugees who have provided a political base, hiding place and shield for the militiamen who led the genocide

of Rwanda's Tutsis in 1994.

It also cast new doubt over the role of the Canadian-led peace-keeping force authorised by a UN resolution last night. The rebel leader, Laurent Kabila, said the mass return has made the force redundant. "I don't think the international community, as Mbagana camp will not be there, will have any reason to come back. Who do they need to protect? We asked the Rwandan and Kenyan governments agree.

The weather in Europe



Forecast for the cities table with columns for city, sun, rain, clouds, snow, and temperature.

Around the world table with columns for location, sun, rain, clouds, snow, and temperature.

European weather outlook text describing weather conditions across Europe, including mentions of rain, snow, and temperature ranges.

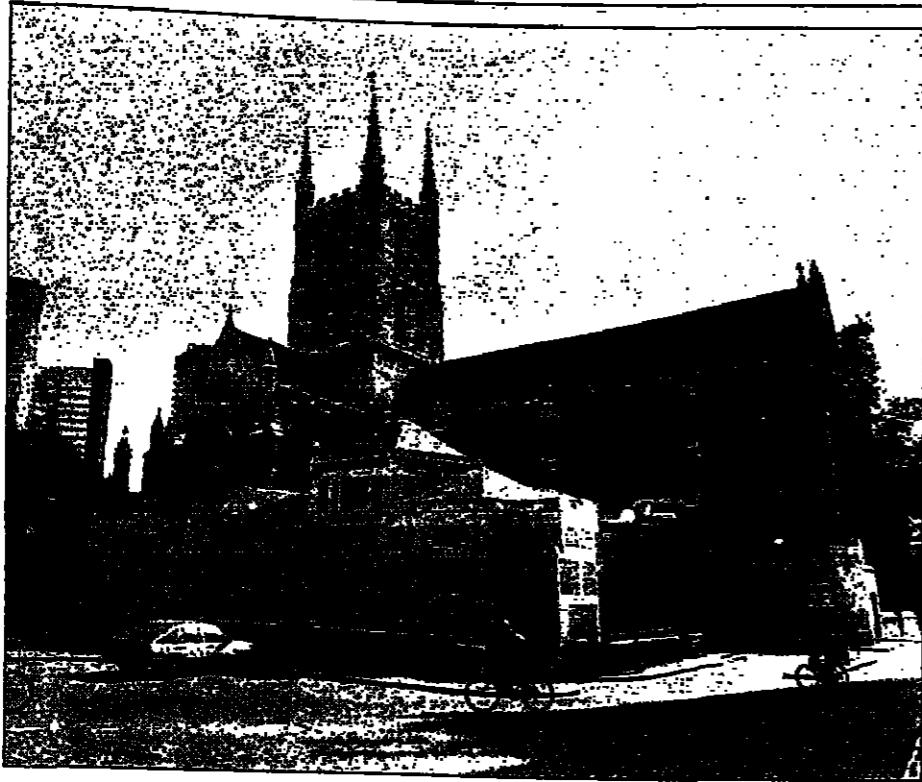
Television and radio — Saturday

Television and radio — Saturday content listing various TV and radio programs, including BBC 1, BBC 2, and BBC Prime.

Television and radio — Sunday

Television and radio — Sunday content listing various TV and radio programs, including BBC 1, BBC 2, and BBC Prime.

سكان الامل



The spectre of schism hangs over a bitterly divided Church of England as the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement celebrates its 20th anniversary today. While its members meet in Southwark Cathedral to pray for acceptance, conservatives link them to promiscuity, depravity and paedophilia. **Madeleine Bunting** reports



The choice of Southwark Cathedral by Richard Kirker of the LGCM — seen with the organisation's teddybear mascots — has infuriated evangelicals

Marching as to war over sin and sexuality

TODAY'S celebration to mark the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement's 20th anniversary has brought to a head the most divisive issue in the Church of England since the ordination of women. In Southwark Cathedral, 2,000 members and supporters of the movement will gather to pray for recognition and acceptance in the Church, which bans practising homosexuals from being ordained and outlaws same-sex relationship blessings. At the same time, evangelicals in about 50 Anglican churches all over the country will be praying to the same God that gays and lesbians repent of their "evil acts" and that He forgive the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, for the Church's failure to "banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrine".

The Southwark event has concentrated the campaigning efforts of both the LGCM and Reform, the conservative evangelical group. It has split the Southwark diocese into bitterly opposing camps, impressing on other dioceses watching from the sidelines how the issue of homosexuality really does raise the spectre of schism. The LGCM, under the assiduous guidance for the last 20 years of Richard Kirker, its general secretary and founder, is nothing if not astute at strategy. Today's event was always going to be controversial; it was intended to be. This evening's service at Southwark is a *coup de grâce*. The use of a cathedral has incensed evangelical opponents. The symbolism of a cathedral as the spiritual centre of the diocese implies official approval for active homosexuality, however much Dr Carey insisted last week that it does not.

Southwark has mobilised Reform into a frenzy of activity, and the last few months has been punctuated by a series of threats. The group has called for evangelicals to challenge bishops to declare their position and boycott those who refuse to endorse their opposition to homosexuality. Parishes in Southwark have declared they will cap their quotas to the diocese in protest. Reform accuses Dr Carey of breaking canon law and has urged him to ban the service. The group's most recent move was to write on Thursday to the Attorney General asking him to look into the LGCM's link last year on the Internet to the "blasphemous" poem, *The Love that Dares Not Speak Its Name*.

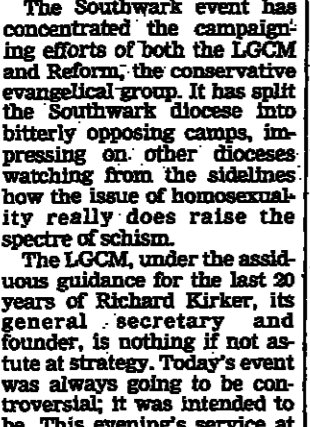
Stirred by members of Reform have become increasingly vicious. They have likened gays to Nazis or advocates of apartheid; they have referred in press releases to the case of the Roman Catholic priest sentenced this week to six years for abusing boys and amassing the biggest collection of Internet pornography, with the clear implication that gays are paedophiles. They have repeatedly targeted a book, *The A to Z of Gay Sex*, which they maintain will be for sale at the book fair that is being run during today's seminars and which they claim, gives advice on outgaying and gay sex, and says: "Who said that human beings are supposed to be monogamous, anyway? Why, some boring old fart in the Bible, that's who!"

Reform's most recent press release quoted from a sex guide LGCM possessed 10 years ago in which "baths are recommended as a place to achieve more sex than anywhere else and it favours sex orgies with a crowd". To Reform it is clear that homosexuality is inextricably linked to paedophilia, promiscuity and depravity of a kind well known in Sodom and Gomorrah. Leviticus's condemnation of homosexuality as an "abomination" is putting it mildly.

Reform acknowledged yesterday that today's event will go ahead, but threatened to take serious decisions at its national council meeting next month. This extraordinary event at Southwark has brought things to a head and leads us to believe that eventually the Church will accept practising homosexuals for ordination," said the Reverend Phillip Hacking, chairman of Reform, yesterday. "We will be discussing ways of dissociating ourselves more and more with the Church. It will be like a church within a church. We want to strengthen our networks of Reform member churches under our own leadership. But we aren't going to leave the Church of England — because we are standing by its truths — unless they throw us out."

The LGCM's dogged persistence and confidence infuriate Reform. LGCM supporters believe history is on their side. They draw parallels with the long struggle for women's ordination and take courage from the steady progress they have made in recent years for what they believe is ultimately a question of justice and honesty. The one thing Reform and the LGCM have in common is their capacity to stir up a fuss out of all proportion to their small memberships. Reform has 500 clergy and 800 lay members, while the LGCM has 1,200 members, of whom 400 are clergy.

But beyond Reform's fanaticism lies a hinterland of support — as a timely Evangelical Alliance survey published this week pointed out. A staggering 96 per cent believed same-sex relationships were always wrong. With evangelicals increasingly powerful in the Church of England — they now represent 40 per cent of members — this should give the LGCM pause for thought. Despite attempts by evangelical theologians and the development of a much more open-minded "post-evangelicalism" to accommodate homosexuality, evangelicals remain adamantly opposed. For them, the issue strikes at the heart of the question of the authority of the Bible. Since every word comes directly from God, attempts to explain away the condemnation of St Paul or Leviticus are pure sophistry.



'One of the critical things we've got to achieve is more honesty and openness. It will take longer and longer the more we go on simply screaming at each other.'

Bishop John Gladwin

A decade of unholy rows

1987: General Synod voted overwhelmingly in favour of a motion which said that "homosexual acts fall short of (the Biblical and traditional) ideal, and are to be met by a call to repentance and the exercise of compassion."

1991: The House of Bishops statement, *Issues in Human Sexuality*, advocated that the Church accept same-sex relationships among the laity while maintaining the ban on ordaining practising homosexuals and ruling out blessing same-sex relationships.

1994: Outrage! disrupted the enthronement of the Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev Michael Turnbull, after it was revealed that he had been convicted 26 years earlier of an act of gross indecency.

March 1996: Rt Rev David Hope, the then Bishop of London, under pressure from Outrage! admitted publicly that his sexuality was a "grey area" but added that he was celibate. A month later he was promoted to Archbishop of York.

This is the bishops' worst nightmare — evangelicals and liberals flinging Bible verses at each other, and fighting for the allegiance of the vast bulk of church-going Anglicans who have little interest in, and less knowledge of, homosexuality. The debate over gay rights is one that the bishops just don't want.

As the Rt Rev John Gladwin, Bishop of Guildford, who has been excommunicated by Reform for agreeing to preach at the service this evening, said last week: "This is where the lobby groups from either point of view don't help us. In freezing the atmosphere, they prevent an honest and open discussion of what is happening. One of the critical things we've got to achieve is more honesty and openness in the discussion. It will take longer and longer the more we go on simply screaming at each other."

What has collapsed in the 1990s is the comfortable double standards by which everyone knew there were gay clergy, and no bishop would dream of doing anything about it. The system rubbed along in a very English fashion with a mixture of turning a blind eye and a lot of discretion. Under this system, a disproportionate number of gays were attracted to the cloth and have served the Church for the

most part with unstinting dedication. "Don't tell, won't ask" became the unwritten rule in theological colleges. "Gays have been ordained for hundreds of years," points out the Rt Rev Walter Righter, the retired bishop of Iowa, Anglican champion of gay rights — after his trial for heresy on grounds of having ordained a practising homosexual collapsed — and the star attraction of the LGCM's seminars today.

But the delicate *modus vivendi* has been destroyed by the pressure groups. An increasingly self-confident gay lobby is no longer satisfied with this furtive, grudging tolerance and that has led to a growing minority of gay clergy who are happy to tell, happy to be asked, openly living in same-sex relationships in their parishes. The LGCM boasts of acting as an agency, putting more than 400 homosexual and lesbian couples a year in touch with sympathetic clergy who will undertake same-sex blessings.

The bishops cannot win. They have a theological position in the House of Bishops' issues in Sexuality, which bans practising homosexuality among priests and same-sex blessings, but they cannot enforce it without a witch-hunt. They end up pronouncing platitudes about the need to combat homophobia — which without the wholehearted support of lesbians and gays is unrealistic — and the need for more debate, a disingenuous point since they have refused repeatedly to bring issues in Sexuality before the General Synod.

For the LGCM two battles beyond today's event are already looming. Next year, there is a real chance that a private member's motion in Synod will finally achieve what the bishops have been blocking and get homosexuality on to the agenda. Beyond that lies the worldwide Anglican Communion's Lambeth Conference of 1998 where American, Canadian, New Zealand and Australian bishops will be pressing Dr Carey to explain why England is trailing behind them.

Head to Head, *The Week*, page 16



If you'd like to know more about our unique whiskey, write to us for a free booklet at the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee 37352 USA.

ONE OF THE FEW THINGS older than Jack Daniel's in the state of Tennessee is the state of Tennessee.

At Jack Daniel Distillery, we're proud to celebrate Tennessee's Bicentennial this year. For it wasn't long after being granted statehood that Tennessee became known as the home of Mr. Jack Daniel and his charcoal-mellowed whiskey. (We still use his method today.) Our great state has seen many changes in the past 200 years. But if you're a whiskey drinker, we think you'll be glad Jack Daniel's isn't one of them.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Twenty-five years after Magnus Magnusson started, the BBC has ordered him to finish. The question we're all asking now is: How did it survive so long?

Simon Hattenstone on the demise of Mastermind

The Week page 17

4 BRITAIN

Irony strikes as Blair meets French leaders

Michael White reports from Paris

TONY Blair yesterday warned President Chirac of France that an incoming Labour government might not be able to join the first wave of a European single currency even if it wants to — because of the level of public debt it may inherit next year.

Mr Blair repeatedly contrasted his enthusiasm for "a fresh start to our relations with Europe" with the difficulties facing a single currency. "The option to join is not closed off, but I do not hide it. There are difficulties," he told Mr Chirac at the Elysée Palace.

He expanded his theme during a lunch with business men. "We have made it clear that in principle we can see advantages in favour of a single currency — stability in exchange rates and lower interest rates — and we have also made it clear that, unlike the Conservatives, there is no insuperable constitutional or political objection to it."

But he hammered away at the formula agreed with key shadow cabinet colleagues that Britain's decision would be based on national economic interests at the time if he wins power next spring, and that there will have to be "genuine and sustainable convergence



Tony Blair during his meeting with the French president, Jacques Chirac, at the Elysée Palace in Paris yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: LIONEL CRONNEAU

in the way [Europe's] economies perform" if the project is not to end in disaster. Behind the rhetoric lies Mr Blair's conviction that the Cabinet has made a strategic error in deciding last week to fight what Labour believes will be a no-win battle over the European Union's directive on the 48 hour week which — President Chirac is said to have told Mr Blair — will not be resolved Britain's way in the months ahead. If Labour can focus the election campaign on "Europe, in or out" Mr Blair believes he can win on this issue.

The irony of yesterday's exchanges was not lost on either side as Mr Blair and the shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, met France's embattled conservative prime minister Alain Juppé, and later President Chirac. The French government was yesterday facing a series of half-

hearted one-day strikes in protest at its attempts to squeeze public expenditure in a political culture still to the left of New Labour. Their aim is to meet the Maastricht Treaty's financial criteria for joining the proposed single currency when it begins, if the timetable can be

met, in 1999. John Major argues that EU social policy embodied in the Social Chapter is rendering Europe uncompetitive and Mr Blair goes some way further in that direction than Mr Juppé is yet able to. With most EU states struggling to balance the books to

meet the Maastricht targets, Mr Blair and Mr Cook warned their hosts that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke's, budget deficit — down from 8 per cent of gross domestic product to nearer 4 per cent — is unlikely to fall below the required 3 per cent target before the general election.

Lib Dems deny sleaze allegations

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

ALLEGATIONS of sleaze over a Liberal Democrat 2195 lunch invitation to businessmen may be referred to the Nolan committee on standards in public life.

The row centres on a letter sent out by the Liberal Democrats in July offering businessmen the chance to meet local councillors over lunch at the party conference in Brighton in September.

The party strenuously denied that this could in any way be seen as an offer of cash for contracts, but added: "If there is any residual doubt or suspicion, we are happy to submit the letter to Lord Nolan and to abide by his judgment."

A spokesman for the Nolan committee said it did not investigate specific allegations but it could look at this in a general way as part of its present inquiry into local government.

He added that it was not clear if these allegations fell under the heading of local government or party funding, and there were no plans to investigate the latter this side of a general election.

The Prime Minister led Tory calls for an investigation, and suggested Lord Nolan. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said the hunch invitation was "a perfectly normal thing to do. On

the face of it, I can't see a problem."

The disputed letter, written by Michael Butlin, business co-ordination manager for the Liberal Democrats, was sent out to thousands of firms. It said the lunch, at the Metropole Hotel, would provide "a buffet-style environment in which 100-plus leaders of councils can meet with the business community. These councillors all control a council, solely or with the assistance of another party."

The cost of attending the lunch is 2195 for each attendee.

The letter stressed the amount of cash councils spend each year, and added: "This working lunch will provide an excellent cost-effective method to open initial discussions on any subject whatever the size of the organisation."

A Liberal Democrat spokesman yesterday denied it had been a 2195 lunch. That figure had been to cover the cost of registering for the whole conference, and included such things as use of phones, faxes and computers.

He said it was preposterous to believe that you could fix up contracts over lunch. Contracts were awarded to the lowest bidder. It had all been completely open.

John Major said: "Liberal Democrats have said repeatedly when these matters have arisen that they should be independently examined. I hope on this occasion they will do that."

Media rounds up the usual suspects in backstabbing

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR is threatening disciplinary action against an MP who wrote a caustic anonymous article about Tony Blair — if he can be identified.

A search for the MP was under way yesterday by both the party and political journalists. A Labour source said that if caught the MP would face loss of the whip.

Different suspects emerged during the day pursued by journalists, only to be dropped after pleading innocent. The usual dissidents were cornered, such as Brian Sedgemore (Hackney South & Shoreditch), who made personal comments about Mr Blair in a book last year, but said he would have signed the article if he had written it.

There was speculation that the author was the former shadow defence secretary Dennis Davies, but he also said he would have signed any piece he had written. Andrew MacKinlay (Thurrock), a more recent maverick, said when contacted: "Not me, gov. My fingerprints are not on it."

The anonymous MP suggested in Tribune that soon after the election Mr Blair would be replaced by the shadow foreign secretary, Robin Cook, in a coup by a coalition of dissident MPs.

Tribune's editor, Mark Sedon, protected the confidentiality of the author yesterday, but denied a newspaper's suggestion that Tribune had said it was a former member of the government, which would have narrowed the search. Labour said that whoever wrote the article was woefully out of date. The present rules made it nearly impossible to change a leader.

Scott goes on the wagon as he fights to save political career

Rebecca Smithers Political Correspondent

THE embattled Tory MP and former minister, Sir Nicholas Scott, has decided to become "absolutely teetotal" as he faces the threat of deselection by his local party in two weeks' time.

His decision to give up alcohol completely is an attempt to lay the ghost of a series of drink-related problems. In a last-ditch effort to persuade members of his Kensington and Chelsea constituency association to retain him as their MP at a crunch meeting on December 2.

In an interview published in the Guardian today, 63-year-old Sir Nicholas also complains of the "grossly unfair" treatment he received at the hands of the press at last month's Conservative Party conference, when he was found lying face-down in the gutter after drinking two glasses of wine. The embarrassing incident triggered an emergency meeting of his local party earlier this month, at which senior party officials refused to back him as their candidate. Sir Nicholas also admits in the interview that he has no idea what he will do if he is deselected at the meeting of the wider party membership next month. It is being held at Kensington town hall — in itself bad news for Sir Nicholas as it is in a part of his constituency which is home to many of his fiercest opponents.

The former minister for the disabled and for Northern Ireland, insists that his fall last month was caused by the reaction of strong painkillers with the wine he drank at an Irish Embassy reception.

Joanna Cole interview The Week, page 15

Advertisement for HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy) titled "Get the facts about HRT". It describes the benefits of HRT, such as managing menopause symptoms, preventing osteoporosis, and maintaining health. It includes contact information for ordering the book: "Which?, PO Box 89, Dept SP164, Hertford, SG14 1TB. Orders are normally despatched within 14 days of receipt. Full refund if not satisfied."

Large advertisement for Dixons Multimedia Pentium P100 PC. The main headline says "MULTIMEDIA PENTIUM P100 PC ONLY £999". Below this, it says "9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*". The ad features an image of the Acer ACROS PENTIUM P100 MULTIMEDIA PC. A "Dixons Deal" badge indicates a price of £999. The ad also lists features like "100MHz Intel Pentium processor", "8Mb RAM", and "8-speed CD-ROM drive". It includes a "PLUS FREE" offer for software like Windows 95, Microsoft Works, and FIFA Soccer 96. At the bottom, it says "CHOOSE TWO OF THESE FOUR TITLES FREE" with images of software boxes for "LEUKEMIA", "MATHS", "SCIENCE", and "ARTS".

Advertisement for Packard Bell PCs. The headline is "FREE COLOUR PRINTER" (Model Canon BJC 240 with voucher). It says "WITH SELECTED PACKARD BELL PCs" (Models 9001S, 9002D, 9003S). The in-store price is £199.99. It features an image of a Packard Bell PC with a color printer. A "NEW" badge is also present.

Advertisement for Packard Bell "BRITAIN'S BEST SELLING PC BRAND". It features a large image of a Packard Bell PC with an Intel Pentium processor. The headline is "9002D P120 PENTIUM MULTIMEDIA PC". Features listed include: "120MHz Intel Pentium processor", "8Mb RAM", "12Gb hard drive", "6-speed CD-ROM drive", and "28.8 bps modem". The price is £1599, with £1000 of software included. A "SAVE £100" badge is shown. The ad also mentions "Dixons Deal" and "FREE - £1000 WORTH OF SOFTWARE WITH ALL PACKARD BELL PCs".

Advertisement for Packard Bell PCs with software vouchers. It lists three models: Packard Bell 9001S P100 Pentium Multimedia PC (£1399), Packard Bell 9002D P120 Pentium Multimedia PC (£1599), and Packard Bell 9003S P150 Pentium Multimedia PC (£1799). Each model includes a "SAVE £100" voucher. The ad also mentions "PLUS £200 WORTH OF MICROSOFT DISCOUNT VOUCHERS WITH NEW PACKARD BELL PCs".

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: "كتاب الالهي"



André Malraux (right) as photographed in 1935 by Gisèle Freund and (above), minus the Gitanes, on a postage stamp which forms part of the campaign

Every Gallic government needs an intellectual on its side and the country's first culture minister, André Malraux, whose remains are to be reburied next weekend, is President Chirac's choice. Alex Duval Smith in Paris reports on how the life of a heroin-addicted, philandering bisexual is being exhumed and edited beyond credulity.



French cultural icon gets makeover

AS Europe prepares to see out the millennium, the *fin de siècle* icon of French youth is a dead minister, pictured in monochrome on street corners and 3 franc postage stamps. The ashes of André Malraux, who died in 1976, will be placed in the Pantheon memorial in Paris next Saturday. The entire French government will be there, with writers including Mario Vargas Llosa, Saul Bellow, Vaclav Havel and V. S. Naipaul.

was Malraux who, in 1959, convinced General de Gaulle that there would be no future for France won through the arts, and that "every child in France has as much right to paintings, theatre and cinema as to the alphabet". De Gaulle called Malraux his *ami général* (genius friend). Since every self-respecting French govern-

ment needs an intellectual on its side, the present Gaullist president, Jacques Chirac, wants Malraux's friendship, too. But the heroin-addicted, philandering bisexual who was culture minister from 1959 to 1969 has not been easy to reinvent. The post office, eager to comply with — often flouted — laws against tobacco promotion, was

unable to find a picture in which Malraux was not smoking. So it copied a 1935 Gisèle Freund photograph and removed the Gitanes. One poster, though, does show him with a cigarette. In the build-up to the Gaullist ceremony at the Pantheon — the 19th-century former church where Léon Foucault tried out his

meeting in Sarajevo last week that Malraux would have been "filled with solidarity for the Bosnian tragedy". According to scholars, the real Malraux was true to his own ideas, and said so: "My ideas are not to be thought but to be lived." He was terrified of being like "all these writers who

Malraux said he was terrified of being like 'all these writers who share the fault that they have not killed anyone'

Telephone tappers need powerful connections

Julian Berger reports from Bucharest on how the secret police are fighting for their future alongside the ex-communists as Romania holds its second, decisive round of presidential elections tomorrow

JOURNALISTS and opposition politicians in Bucharest have become accustomed to clicks and whirs on their telephone lines, assuming them to be the noisy hallmark of the Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI). But nothing could be further from the truth, insists Captain Constantin Bucur. "When we're listening to your phone line, there is no way you can tell," he maintains proudly. But, he says, the SRI is never far away. In fact, Capt Bucur — an intelligence officer turned whistle-blower — claims Romania's secret police are just as busy as they were in the communist era, when they were called the Securitate.

Adrian Nastase, also rejects the captain's allegations. The PRM, he says, "have just found someone with radical feelings to make a noise for them". A recent parliamentary enquiry found that the SRI conducted 900 authorised phone taps in 1995, 80 per cent of them on foreigners. Mr Nastase insists the SRI is under strict parliamentary scrutiny, but Capt Bucur claims most of the surveillance he carried out, including taps on opposition newspapers, was not formally authorised but ordered directly by Mr Magureanu. "I became convinced that this man was not working for state security, that he was working for personal and political interests," Capt Bucur said. He joined the secret police in 1980 when it was the central prop underpinning the dictatorial regime of Nicolae Ceausescu. But although Ceausescu has been dead for almost seven years, the spirit and methods of the Securitate seem to live on, locked in a paranoid embrace with Romania's former communists in the Party for Social Democracy (PDSR). Now, however, the PDSR has finally faltered, losing parliamentary elections last Sunday to a centrist coalition. President Ion Iliescu is clinging on, but he will have to face a presidential run-off

tomorrow against a pro-reform challenger. If he loses, that, the old guard will have fallen. Such a prospect poses a serious threat to the SRI, which — unlike communist spy networks elsewhere in eastern Europe — has yet to undergo reform or scrutiny. Two thirds of its staff are — like Capt Bucur — former Securitate officers, and its files on the communist era have remained resolutely closed. Romanians still do not know whether the bloody events of December 1989 were a real revolution or a charade manipulated by a group of communist plotters. More than a thousand civilians were shot by snipers during street protests, but none of the snipers were ever prosecuted. About a hundred suspected sharpshooters were seized, but were all released two days later without charge, and have since disappeared. No details of their identity were ever released publicly. Capt Bucur, who was assigned to an army unit in December 1983, believes the December killings were carried out by an elite armed group acting on orders from the National Salvation Front (NSF), a group of communist party members, including Mr Iliescu, which usurped power and executed Ceausescu and his wife. "They all have blood on their hands," said Capt Bucur, although he refused to go into greater detail. He warned that the secret police will attempt to manipulate the vote tomorrow to ensure Mr Iliescu holds on to his position. If the president falls, however, the truth behind the Romanian "revolution" may finally come to the surface.

Rap singers jailed for anti-police lyrics

Paul Webster in Paris

DECISION to jail two of France's best known rappers and ban them from singing for six months because of their anti-police lyrics has shocked human rights organisations and lawyers, but pleased the National Front and most police unions. Bruno Lopes, better known as Kool Shen, and Didier Morville (Joey Starr), are to appeal against the six-month jail terms. The lyrics, passed by a judge at Toulon, a National Front stronghold. The sentence for "verbal outrage against public authority" was the maximum possible. The two were also fined \$5,000 each. But lawyers said the judge had abused his powers by banning public appearances. The two accused are the stars of NTM or Nique ta Mère (Fuck your Mother) whose last disc, Paris under the Bombs, sold 200,000 copies. One of their concerts in a Toulon suburb in July was outlawed by the Gaullist prefect (governor) Jean-Charles Marchiani, who said the group's name insulted the Bombs, sold 200,000 copies. One of their concerts in a Toulon suburb in July was outlawed by the Gaullist prefect (governor) Jean-Charles Marchiani, who said the group's name insulted the Bombs, sold 200,000 copies. One of their concerts in a Toulon suburb in July was outlawed by the Gaullist prefect (governor) Jean-Charles Marchiani, who said the group's name insulted the Bombs, sold 200,000 copies.

'Bugged' Chubais faces Yeltsin funding scandal

David Hearst in Moscow

NATOLY Chubais, the chief of Russia's presidential administration, was last night embroiled in scandal after the leak of a conversation in which he allegedly conspired to cover up millions of dollars of illegal funding for Boris Yeltsin's re-election campaign. Within hours of the publication in a Moscow newspaper of the transcript, Mr Yeltsin cancelled a planned radio address. The tape from which the transcript was taken was played on a private radio station. One of those implicated in the conversation, Sergei Krasavchenko, Mr Chubais's deputy, admitted one of the voices "sounded like" Mr Chubais but claimed the tape was a fabrication. A presidential spokesman said Mr Chubais had "categorically denied" that such a

conversation had taken place. But the contents of the tape, if verified, would be explosive and could be used to start impeachment proceedings against Mr Yeltsin. Mr Chubais, campaign coordinator Viktor Ilyushin and Mr Krasavchenko are said to discuss how they can hush up the arrest of two of Mr Chubais's campaign workers who had been stopped two days earlier taking \$538,000 in cash out of Russia's White House. The arrest and subsequent release of Arcady Yevsteviev and Sergei Lisovsky on June 19-20 led to a row between Mr Chubais and General Alexander Korzhakov, then head of the presidential bodyguard, which ended with the dismissal of Gen Korzhakov, Mikhail Barsukov, the head of the

Federal Security Service, and Oleg Soskovyets, the deputy premier. The conversation allegedly took place in the president's hotel and was recorded by remote sensors on June 22, just before the second round of the presidential election. Mr Ilyushin is quoted in the transcript as recounting a

at one point Mr Chubais is said to discuss the possibility of smuggling Mr Yevsteviev and Mr Lisovsky out of Russia in the car of cellist and presidential supporter Mstislav Rostropovich. It was assumed yesterday that the conversation had been bugged by Gen Korzhakov's men and released to discredit Mr Chubais. Sergei Baburin, deputy Speaker in the Duma, said that if the transcript is genuine then the scandal "may undermine the entire constitutional order". The Speaker, Gennady Seleznyov, said it shows how much "everything here is fragile and corrupt". Tension was high in the Belarusian capital, Minsk, last night, as opposition deputies claimed President Alexander Lukashenko was staging a state coup. Troops surrounded the central election commission after throwing out its chairman days before a referendum is due on increased presidential power.

Castro keeps the Pope waiting

John Hooper in Rome

FIDEL CASTRO again failed to show up at the World Food Summit yesterday, prompting speculation about the reasons for his absence. The Cuban leader had been due to address the conference yesterday afternoon, and was expected to hold an historic reconciliation with the Pope during his stay in Rome.

But yesterday the Vatican's spokesman claimed the Pope's secretariat had still not received a request for an audience — and a Cuban diplomat said the island's leader would "perhaps" arrive today. Christine Graves, a spokeswoman for the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the Rome-based United Nations agency which is staging the summit, said the Cuban authorities had blamed their

leader's absence on bad weather which has struck the island in recent days, leaving thousands homeless. However, at least three commercial flights left the island early yesterday. And at Rome's Fiumicino airport an official said weather conditions over Cuba were "such as to delay a flight, but not to force it to be cancelled". It meanwhile emerged that the Archbishop of Havana, Monsignor Jaime Ortega, had

returned to Cuba from the Vatican last Monday. He could have been expected to be present at an audience with the Pope, and his presence in Rome was one reason for speculation that a meeting had been fixed. Vatican sources said it would be difficult to arrange any meeting until Monday. The pontiff has a full agenda today and has only once been known to grant an audience on a Sunday.

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Feeding looters may be key to Zaire peace

Dole Olojede in Kisangani

A MAN of God seized a microphone and yelled into the darkness of the pre-dawn hours, calling for help to fend off looters trying to break into the Catholic compound. In this town of more than 350,000, a few hundred people responded to the priest's cry — and for once they succeeded in driving off marauding soldiers from their own army. But only for once. An army in disarray is delivering the final blows to this prostrate frontier town deep in the Zairean rainforest. Oranges of looting, wild gunbattles between units of the same army, random killings and a desperate shortage of food have besieged the city. The fall of Goma and other eastern towns to Zairean rebels appears to have set off a domino effect which is now being felt in the vast hinterland of this unwieldy country. In addition to more than 1 million Rwandan Hutu refugees dispersed about eastern Zaire, hundreds of thousands of Zaireans are believed to have been displaced by the fighting.

of rutted highway between Kisangani and Goma are reported to have emptied. Villagers have fled into the forest, and are slowly making their way towards Kisangani. Stragglers arriving in bands of tens and twenties say they left dying relatives by the roadside. Aid workers and diplomats struggling to reach the displaced say the road to Goma is ruled by soldiers-turned-bandits, and littered with vehicles left by the defeated army of President Mobutu Sese Seko as it fled westward into the Zairean hinterland. A French diplomat is working with local army commanders and surviving businesses to send a convoy of food, fuel and supplies down this road. The aim is to satisfy the looting lust of the soldiers, perhaps luring them back into Kisangani from where — with any luck — they can be reassembled.

After that, relief workers would secure relatively safe access to the displaced Zaireans as well as the Rwandan refugees who ran from the victorious rebels and are now believed to be scattered to the west of Goma near the towns of Masi and Walkale. The policy has the backing of some locals, including Mokeni Ekopi Raymond, who

chairs the Kisangani chamber of commerce and is a leading organiser of the proposed convoy. He has sought to prevent looting by distributing free food to the soldiers and has been on air to appeal for calm.

"The fact is that you have all these soldiers coming in and they need food, too," said Jerry Selenke, an American Catholic priest who runs logistics operations for local churches and aid agencies. "If you don't feed them, all hell is going to break loose."

"This is the dangerous and unstable environment into which foreign troops will shortly plunge. The multinational intervention force will find that all order has broken down, that no effective government exists, that large population shifts have displaced communities, and that heavily armed militias and a disintegrating army have created incredible chaos.

"The convoy is for the looters, to get them out of the way," said a senior French diplomat. "We give them food. We give them petrol so they can come here to sell the cars they have stolen, which gives a chance for them to be sent back to the camp. After they are out of the way, then we take in the supplies to the population." — Newsday.



A boy looks at the bodies of two relatives killed by Zairean rebels at the Mugunga camp in eastern Zaire

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID GUTTENFELDER

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Press savaging riles Mandela

David Beresford in Johannesburg

RELATIONS between the South African press and Nelson Mandela nosedived yesterday when one of the country's biggest newspapers denounced him for "smearing" black journalists. The Johannesburg Star accused the president of "tainting both himself and the country" and of being unbalanced and ridiculous. The editorial was written in response to a speech made by Mr Mandela on Wednesday in which he said the "white-controlled conservative media" were co-opting senior black journalists to attack fellow blacks in the African National Congress to avoid racism charges.

The Star's black political editor, Kaiser Nyatumba, has criticised his "autocratic" leadership and said in a radio broadcast that it may be due to "growing senility". South Africa's biggest black newspaper, City Press — owned by an Afrikaner publishing house — has criticised Mr Mandela for taking his conciliatory approach to rightwing whites too far. But the president's anger was seemingly triggered by a

sensational report in The Star on Monday, written by a black staffer, which suggested the president had withdrawn his endorsement of the deputy president, Thabo Mbeki, as his successor.

The report was based on an interview given by Mr Mandela to foreign journalists last Friday in which he answered questions about the succession with the formulaic reply that the presidency was not in his gift and would be decided at the ANC's congress in December next year. If it chose Mr Mbeki, he would support it.

But on Monday The Star reported that Mr Mandela warned a weekend meeting of the ANC's national executive that this Mbeki "bombshell" was about to break. The paper quoted a "senior source" in the executive as saying the leadership was "stunned" by the announcement, which was taken to mean "the race is on" for the presidency. The ANC denied the report.

Most observers believe it was exaggerated. But there is growing suspicion that the two have fallen out over who will succeed Mr Mbeki as deputy. He wants a personal ally, the Natal ANC leader, Jacob Zuma, to fill the post. Mr Mandela is believed to want a more independent figure.

News in brief

UN rapporteur warns Israel on torture

A LEADING member of the United Nations anti-torture body yesterday criticised an Israeli court decision allowing police to use physical force against a Palestinian detainee, saying it risked sanctioning torture. Israel's high court on Thursday overturned an interim court order forbidding the Shin Bet secret police from using physical force against a Palestinian detainee. Israeli media reports said the detainee was a member of the militant Islamic Jihad group and had information about attacks planned against Israeli targets. Peter Burns, a Canadian senior member of the UN human rights body's torture committee and its rapporteur for Israel, said: "It is particularly disappointing that such a civilised society as Israel should feel the need to resort to such measures even in the face of imminent danger." — *Reuters, Geneva.*

Indian Maoists kill 14

MAOIST revolutionaries blew up a police station in the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh yesterday, killing 14 people, before escaping with rifles and ammunition. Thirty fighters from the banned People's War group, which has called on landless peasants to rise up for nearly 50 years, carried out the raid in the town of Sirpur. They shot the local police chief and engaged police in an hour-long shoot-out before dynamiting the station. Thirteen police and a prisoner in the cells were killed. The group murdered 84 police, landowners and liquor vendors in the first six months of the year, police said. — *Suzanne Goldenberg, New Delhi.*

Bosnia paves way for arms

BOSNIA'S president, Alija Izetbegovic, yesterday bowed to United States pressure to fire two senior defence officials, including one with strong ties to Iran, clearing the way for delivery of a huge shipment of US arms, a US envoy said. "President Izetbegovic informed us [he would] remove Deputy Minister Hasan Cemalic and Minister Vasko Saljic from office," the US special envoy, James Pardner, said. Meanwhile, the Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, was reported to be seriously ill with cancer. He was admitted to a Washington hospital for treatment, CNN said yesterday, citing US government sources. — *Reuters, Sarajevo and Washington.*

Shipping tycoon leads ballot

THE shipping tycoon Tung Chee-hwa vying to take over as leader when Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule next year opened up a commanding lead in the first stage of balloting yesterday. Three contenders won the 50 votes needed to go through to the second ballot next month, but Mr Tung polled 308 votes in the 400-member committee set up by China. The former chief justice Ti Liang Yang won 82 votes, and the businessman Peter Woo won 54. — *Reuters, Hong Kong.*

Swiss girl killed by bomb

A 13-year-old Swiss girl was killed yesterday and her mother severely injured when a parcel bomb the girl found in their post-box exploded in their home in Buchs, on the Austrian border, police said. Another bomb exploded the same afternoon in a grocer's shop in Flawil, about 50 miles from Buchs. Police in the northern canton of St Gall, who are not treating the blasts as linked, said: "Nothing is known yet about the perpetrators or their motive." — *Reuters, Zurich.*

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سكس من الامل

Oliver Anderson

Stirring things in a Grantham teacup

A RADIO programme voted Grantham "Most Boring Town in the Country". It was not ever thus. In 1937 the Grantham Journal carried the headline "Excitement in Grantham", though it could as well have been "Storm in Teacup". The story begins "Grantham is agog." The cause of the excitement was a comic novel called *Rotten Borough* by an author using the pen-name Julian Pine. "Grantham thinks it recognises itself as the 'Rotten Borough'," wrote the Journal. "It thinks it recognises some of its eminent burghers in the story..." And finally Grantham thinks it knows who Mr Julian Pine is, that he is the son of a person in the district. There were plans for an "Indignation meeting" which a mass libel action against the author would be organised.

The novel exposes in farcical form the corruption of small-town politics. In *Rotten Borough* there is a bigwig called Colonel Barlow who had been to Harrow. In real life the Lord Lieutenant was a Squadron-Leader who had been to Eton. He was also Keeper of the Rolls, Custos Rotulorum, a title which seems to contain an echo of Rotten Borough. Furthermore he was Personal Ford-in-Waiting to King Edward VIII. In short, he was a very big cheese in those pre-war semi-feudal days. The publishers panicked, withdrew the book (which had been selling quite briskly for a few weeks), apologised to the Mayor of Grantham and the local MP, and grovelled to a number of what the Grantham Journal calls "other personages".

The local paper also reported the proceedings of the Grantham Council, in which a Councillor Roberts was eloquent about the expenditure on oaks for the horse engaged in work for the highway committee. In the same issue of the paper there is an advertisement for *FINEST SELECTED XMAS FRUITS*

available from Roberts Food Shop, *Realities of the Finest Fruits, Phone Grantham 151.*

The Food Store was the corner shop which was the birthplace of Margaret Hilda Roberts, also known as "Snobby" Roberts, also known as Mrs Thatcher. Her father, Charles Roberts, would surely have been among the "other personages" apologised to by publisher and author. After all, one of the characters mocked at length in Pine's novel is a councillor who is a British Library catalogue (which is extraordinary) and when I did track down a copy in a library it was kept under lock and key like a wild beast. The suppression of the book was very effective. The next step was to find the author. Having discovered that Julian Pine was Oliver Anderson I

his last 50 years was at Swine Hill. When he published *Rotten Borough* at the age of 28 he was working on the Nottingham Guardian and Evening Post, where he gained much of the raw material that found its way into *Rotten Borough*.

In 1939 Anderson joined the army as a private soldier. He rejected the idea of a commission because he felt as a private he had no responsibility for anyone but himself. He fought at Alamein in field artillery. "They shove you well forward," he said with a laugh. He laughed a lot. Alamein and Tunis it was back home for the Second Front, arriving in Normandy on D-day plus 2. He had what in those days was called "a good war".

In peacetime he wrote nearly a dozen novels under his own name and then gave up in 1968, when he was only 56. He said he was overcome by the spirit of the times, and by his besetting sins of laziness and lack of ambition. He never owned a car, but walked and bicycled tirelessly. He led a simple life and his pleasures were reading Proust and listening to classical music on the wireless. He said his aim in life was to get rid of attachments. All he wanted was a comfortable armchair, a warm fire, and a life of peace and reason.

His diet was mostly eggs, toast and smoky China tea. When I met him in his mid-seventies he appeared tremulously fit and active, polite and with a mischievous twinkle in the eye. The rather dandy-ish moustache was of the twirling kind, but looked like a mere afterthought, a decorative flourish to the great presence. The nose was huge, chromatically thrilling, awe-inspiring. It was best seen in profile, but was dramatic from any angle. He was one of the most instantly likeable people I have ever met.

All Anderson wanted was a comfortable armchair, a warm fire, a life of peace and reason, eggs, toast and smoky China tea

shares in the gas company and makes sure one of the lamps is erected smack outside his shop, assuring passers-by a good view of his sanges, potatoes and leeks.

All goes well until one evening the Naughty Councillor locks up and induces a young lady shop assistant to "serve behind the counter in a rather unusual way". Unfortunately for the councillor he has forgotten to draw the blinds. The gas-lamps suddenly come on and "several House-Wives of the Lower Classes, whose faces were pressed against the windows covering the Park Pies they could not afford to buy, saw Everything. So the Naughty Councillor was in more than one way undone and he had to resign from the Town Council and finally he Hanged Himself with a pair of Woolworth's braces in a Public Convenience. Moral: People who live in Glass Houses should never forget to Draw the Blinds." The highly satisfying conclusion to the

spent a lot of time with Directory inquiries before tracking him down, alive and well and living — where else? — just outside Grantham.

The Thatcher connection had aroused my curiosity, but what it led me to was much more interesting. *Rotten Borough* is a farce, a romp, a hoot. It's the work of a clever, witty and sophisticated young man. It is quick-witted, very bawdy, very funny and mocks everyone in sight without respect for sex, race, colour, creed or anything else. This fine comic novel disappeared totally for half a century. I am much pleased that my Guardian article led to the book being re-published in 1989 under the author's true name and to widespread interest.

Anderson, who has died aged 84, was the son of a Lincolnshire parson straight out of *Christmas Stanzas*. He was Rector of Little Ponton, near Grantham, and he once rode to church on a pig. Funny enough his address for



Oliver Anderson... a mischievous twinkle in the eye and a rather dandy-ish moustache

Chris Prater

First editions of an adventure story

FIRST met the screenwriter Chris Prater, who has died aged 72, one sunny Saturday morning in October 1968 at Kelpra Studio, then a converted house just off London's Old Street. I had come for an interview for a studio assistant's job. Chris was like that for the next 25 years during which we were friends and colleagues, and he never did ask me for any qualifications.

But in retrospect into very modest circumstances he left school at 14. Like all young men of his generation he soon found himself conscripted into the services, before really knowing that he wanted to do it. After the war he took up screenwriting, initially as he put it, "as something to do". I don't think at that stage he was ever truly in love with the medium, but he was probably always in love with art (Some years before he had attended the working men's college, drawing and painting in the evenings).

He married Rose Kelly in 1968 and in 1967 they set up business together as commercial screenwriters. They traded under the name of Kelpra — a combination of both surnames. They were quite inseparable, living and working together until Rose's death in 1982.

It was in 1968 that they printed the poster for the Young Contemporaries exhibition. That in turn led to regular work for the Arts Council, and in 1961 Gordon House commissioned Chris to print a series of square grids.

In 1970 Kelpra's position as the foremost artists' screenwriters led to an exhibition at the Hayward Gallery. In 1980 the Tate held a retrospective: *Artist's Prints 1961-1980* which included a work by RE KITA, Richard Hamilton, Eduardo Paolozzi and Joe Tilson. Chris prints, as I wrote in the catalogue, represented landmarks in the development of modern printing.

In all the years I knew him I didn't think Chris ever fully came to terms with the fact that his studio had a world-



Incurable experimenter... Chris Prater and (above) his screenprint from Robert Motherwell's Africa Suite, 1970

wide reputation and that he was a "someone in the art world". It was something he always seemed uneasy about and that sometimes led to a fair amount of "bluster" on his part — which could give people the wrong impression. But he would drive me to distraction at times, but I came to realise that this was his great strength and it made all things possible, as indeed did our process photographer Dennis Francis whom Chris had met and employed in the very early 1960s. Chris, myself, Dennis, and my good friend Nigel Oxley — who was responsible for the etching — formed the core of Kelpra, but none of us would have made our mark if it had not been for the faith Chris showed in our ability.

After Kelpra closed, about five years ago, I lost touch with Chris. We didn't speak until a few months before his death. Our conversation was, as always, about the old days. As I am sure Chris enjoyed every minute of them — I know I did.

Douglas Corker
Christopher Prater, screen printer, born April 4, 1924; died November 2, 1996

Belinda Quirey

Chocolate biscuits from a dance doyenne

FOR dance historian and teacher Belinda Quirey, who has died aged 84, just to translate an original dance manuscript was pointless. It also had to be presented practically, and danced at the highest possible level. Thus she choreographed Rameau's *Hippolyte et Aricie* for Birmingham University using 18th century dance technique and style, and thus she influenced many of today's directors, actors and singers in the art of period movement.

Among the places where she taught were the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, the London Academy of Music and Dance, the Guildhall School of Music and York University. She inspired all her many pupils, who are now scattered all over the world, and her classes and work were never dull.

While working with her for the English Bach festival, the dancers must have consumed their combined weight eating the chocolate digestive biscuits she provided. "Oh darling!" she confided, "there is nothing better than a digestive biscuit to soothe their poor tormented souls."

One RADA student, now an Anglican canon, was given unorthodox advice when tiredness rendered him incapable of obtaining the posture she wanted. "Think that you have a lemon between your buttocks and squeeze hard." He assures me that whenever he starts to feel lethargic he remembers Belinda and her lemons and squeezes hard.

QUIREY was born in Northern Ireland, but educated in England where her father was director of a railway company. Her career began with her lifelong passion, ballroom dancing, as a pupil of Eve Tynegate-Smith and she started professionally as the Gleneagles Hotel's ballroom coach.

After studying modern dance with Rudolf Von Laban, and classical ballet with Laura Wilson, she found her niche through answering an advertisement in the Times. It offered a week's engagement as a guinea pig to put into practice the newly researched material of Maudie Wood, a pioneer in the field of historical dance.

For the rest of her life she was involved in what she called early dance. Should anybody be unfortunate enough to drop the term "historical dance" in her presence a loud scream would ensue, followed by a lecture. If there was such an animal, she would ask, why wasn't music of the past "historical" too?

"The dance world was very slow in accepting her findings. At a dance congress one famous teacher labelled them 'a figment of Belinda's more than vivid imagination'. She was un deterred.

Her husband, James Kelly, predeceased her. They had no children.

Michael Holmes
Belinda Quirey, dance historian and teacher, born April 14, 1912; died October 27, 1996

Face to Faith

Why Islam is really a women-friendly religion

Ahmed Versi

THE media has portrayed an image of the Taliban's oppression of women which Westerners have found fascinating and horrifying. What is overlooked is the long history of Islam's gender equality and the world of how Islam continues to promote women's opportunities.

When Imam Zuhri, a Muslim scholar of the Sunnah (life and practice of the Prophet) in the eighth century, told Qasim ibn Muhammad, a scholar of the Qur'an, that he wished to seek knowledge, Qasim advised him to join the assembly of a well-known woman jurist called Amra bint al-Rahman.

Early Islamic history is replete with famous women jurists and scholars. Muslim women were famous in all fields of knowledge.

Shafika Shuhda, known as Fakhr al-Nisa, living in the 11th century, was well known in literature, rhetoric, poetry, and history. She gave public lectures in the mosque of Baghdad attended by many "ulama" (scholars). Shafika Shuhda granted diplomas to many famous men of her time.

In the spiritual field, Rabi'a al-Adawiyyah, a great sufi of Basra in the eighth century, infused the concept of divine love with such intensity that she devoted her whole life to contemplation of God. Khadijah, wife of the Prophet, was a very successful trader. She used her wealth in the way of Islam by helping the poor, in freeing slaves, and propagating the message of the nascent religion. Khadijah was one of many women at that time who ran their own businesses.

Women were consulted in the conduct of political affairs by the caliphs (khalifah) from

the seventh century right through to the end of the Ottoman empire. For example, Umar ibn al-Khattab, the second caliph, consulted both Shifa bint Abdullah and Samara bint Nuhayk, who worked as inspectors in the market of Medina. Women were among the first Muslims who were forced to leave their homes because of persecution and then spread the message of Islam. They were also among the first martyrs.

In the Qur'an, the main source for Islamic teachings, men and women have absolute parity: "The true believers, both men and women, are friends to each other, they enjoin what is just and forbid what is evil, they attend to their prayers and pay the alms-tax and obey God and his Apostle."

The only characteristic which distinguishes and differentiates between human beings in the Qur'an is piety. "Men and women, we have created you from a male and female and divided you into nations and tribes that you might get to know one another, the noblest amongst you in God's sight is he who fears Him most."

Both men and women are accorded to acquire knowledge. The Prophet has said: "The quest for knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim (men and women)."

Do we find the high status and equal treatment of women that Islam prescribes? Not in the West — created and sponsored Taliban where women are barred from participating in public life.

NOR can we find it in the pro-Western secular state of Turkey, a country which prides itself on more than 70 years of secularism and "women's emancipation". Muslim women are not allowed to work in government offices, the civil service, government hospitals and the judiciary. They are also forbidden from teaching in government universities. Nor can they take up a seat in the parliament. Why? Because they wear the hijab (headscarf).

Yet there are countries where Islamic Law is imple-

Weekend Birthdays

plushy fens around Taunton. He re-uses father's pre-war vocabulary, especially the word "disguise". Lives in father's house; considered admission to his father's club. White's; and wants to be remembered "as a significant patriarch in a continuing dynasty". And yet... and yet — in his autobiography, the most vivid page recalls that day in the bare deserts of post-war austerity when England's children were issued with a banana each — one wonderful unknown yellow luxury — and man Evelyn Waugh commanded his children's treats and ate them before their faces.

Today's birthdays: Prof Chinua Achebe, novelist, poet and educationalist, 66; Genda Bailey, editor of *Mari's Chair*, 58; Michael Billington, writer and critic, 57; Frank Bruno, boxer, 35; Willie Carson, jockey, 54; Griff Rhy Jones, comedian, writer, 43; Prof Sir Magdi Yacoub, cardiothoracic surgeon, 61; Wagan Younis, cricketer, 26; Michael Zander, Professor of Law, LSE, 61.

Tomorrow's other birthdays: Lesley Abdela, founder, 300 Group for women in politics and public life, 51; Sir Jeremy

What must it be like to be a character from one of your father's novels, as is Anberon Alexander Waugh, 57 tomorrow? And not a hero, but a minor character; wasn't Bron one of those gingerish, lickerish, scoldily waistcoated chaps in the lit-mag like whom Basil Seal met in Put Out More Flags, just before the outbreak of war? The classy female lit-mag entourage which attends Bron's crowned state at the Literary Review resemble the early culture-groups Guy Crouchback encounters in blacked-out London. And the chronicles of Bron's life in Somerset are obviously an extension of Boot's nature notes from Scoop with humans replacing votes questing in the



Ahmed Versi edits the national newspaper, The Muslim News

Beecham, chairman, Association of Metropolitan Authorities, 52; Danny DeVito, actor, 52; David Hockney, painter, 69; fashion designer, 44; Fenella Fielding, actress, 62; Lt-Gen Sir Charles Guthrie, Chief of the General Staff, 58; Colin Hayes, painter, 77; Sir Charles Mackerras, conductor, 71; George Masses, jazz musician, 70; Gordon Lightfoot, songwriter, 58; Prof Linford Rees, dean, St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, 54; Jonathan Ross, broadcaster, 56; Martin Scorsese, film director, 54; John Wells, writer and actor, 60.

Memorial Services
O'NEILL, CROSSMAN, Robert (Bob), 73-67-21-10-68. A celebration of Robert's life will be held in the Kingston Town Hall at 2pm on Saturday 22 November 1996. R.S.V.P. Mayor's Office, 011 477 5113.

Births
GAMFELL, Congratulations to Karen & Ian, on the birth of Sophie Louise, born 10th November 1996. A cousin for Andrew! Lots of love, from all the family, too.

Birthdays
SHEWELL, Jonathan. Happy 27th love from M's. Please visit our announcement telephone 0174 735 4567, Fax 0171 735 4523.

The limits of alcohol

If only the experts could agree

SHOULD people be barred from jobs as a result of one blood test for alcohol? The result of the television executive's action against a company doctor who diagnosed him unsuitable for work with NBC Europe — because of an alleged consumption of 35 units (four and a half bottles of wine) a week — will not be reached until next week. But the case has already produced sufficient substance for two separate debates in British pubs this weekend: what is a safe level of alcohol consumption? And is the American approach — initial screening by companies followed by random testing — the best way of tackling alcoholism?

No one should minimise the deadly effects of alcohol. About 22,000 deaths a year are alcohol-related (including 10 deaths a week from drink driving) and nearly a quarter of all male admissions to hospitals has an alcohol element. Its propensity to increase violence is notorious: about 40 per cent of child abuse cases include an alcohol element and over 40 per cent of other violent domestic incidents, while 65 per cent of attempted suicides involve people indulging in excessive drinking. Then there are the financial costs: an estimated £50 million from alcohol-related crime, £150 million in NHS treatment, and as much as £2 billion lost to industry from absenteeism.

Yet, despite the huge losses to industry, private employers remain complacent. Only three per cent responded to a survey of 3,000 companies last year on alcohol-related problems. An estimated 10 per cent of British companies do already test prospective employees for alcohol or drug abuse but there they policy frequently stops. Some 40 per cent do not have a policy on alcoholism and 60 per cent no system for identifying or recording drinking problems. Even health authorities are no better than private employers in introducing effective programmes.

Compare this to the American approach — both private and federal. Over one million federal employees were drawn into test programmes — for drugs as well as alcohol — during the 1980s. Workers are expected to urinate on demand by officials given the Orwellian title of "collection site person", whose job is to ensure employees do not substitute their sample with regularly advertised samples of drug-free urine. The American programme has raised serious civil liberty issues. It reverses the normal presumption of innocence. There is little treatment associated with the tests. They can lead to the dismissal of people who go to work sober, but were drunk on Saturday night. Even more serious, there is concern about the specimens being analysed without the subject's knowledge to reveal confidential medical conditions like epilepsy or pregnancy.

The American approach is too coercive just as the British is too complacent. This week's case highlights another problem: the disagreement between medical experts on what is a safe limit. Two doctors in this week's case — a professor of medicine and a consultant physician — declared 35 units of alcohol was not exceptional, would not affect an individual's capacity to work, and was not dangerous. One Danish study published by the British Medical Journal, suggested males drinking 50 units of wine (but not beer or spirits) a week would reduce their risk of premature death. But even the scientists disagree. Many believe the Danish level is dangerous. The official British guideline has been increased but only to 28 units for men, 21 for women. The best emphasis would be on prevention rather than retribution. We need more support programmes, counselling and treatment schemes.

Digital dictator

Mr Murdoch needs competition: now

THE GOVERNMENT has on our behalf — though without actually asking us — turned down the BBC's request to have its television licence fee increased. But people, as individuals, seem ready to pay ever increasing sums to watch television as the industry prepares to enter the digital age when hundreds of channels will fight each other for the three hours and five minutes we spend (on average) each day watching television. In the short-term there are expected to be two corporate honeypots — films and sport. Earlier this week a newspaper report suggesting that some Premier League football clubs like Manchester United could get up to £50 million in extra revenues from pay-per-view was enough to send the shares of quoted football clubs soaring.

At the moment, almost inevitably, Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB is poised to clean up in pay-per-view since he already has an armlock on Premier League football and even on international matches like England versus Georgia which most sensible people regard as national events that should have been broadcast by the BBC or ITV. BSkyB has booked space in a digital satellite from next summer as the start of a plan to bombard us with sport and films from hundreds of channels. In theory, there ought to be a shoal of competitors bidding for the rights to transmit individual football matches live by pay-per-view including cable companies, digital terrestrial broadcasters, rival groups renting satellite space, enterprising football clubs and even the BBC itself which isn't prohibited from entering the pay-per-view market as long as its ventures aren't financed by licence income. Unless any of these, individually or collectively, can get their act together, Mr Murdoch will use the formidable base he has built up to expand his growing hold on our viewing habits. And if, as looks likely, he is first to produce a set-top box to unscramble digital signals then — since few people would want to buy two of these expensive decoders — he will control the gateway to the digital age for the BBC and other companies as well.

All of which, once again, proves the superiority of marketing over technology. BSkyB's system triumphed even though it was the inferior of the two systems on offer. And satellite television ought to be yesterday's technology since it isn't interactive like cable and it needs a separate decoder for more than one television set. If British Telecom hadn't been forbidden to send entertainment down its lines it could have built broadband (high capacity) optical fibres right into our homes. As long as BT had been required to offer "common carrier" rights at a fair price to all companies wanting to transmit, it would have removed the need to dig up the roads for cabling or to disfigure our streets with millions of satellite dishes. The rest is history.

Life, the universe and waffle

ALWAYS look forward to reading the load of waffle responding to Richard Dawkins' thoughts (A hunger for wonder, November 12). Thursday's letters lived up to expectations. Philip Lloyd Lewis rolled out the old lie that science attempts to prove that the universe is an orderly place. Try studying quantum mechanics or turbulent fluid flow to discover how disorderly the universe appears to scientists. Science never attempts to prove anything; it only tries to help us understand in an empirical way. Ben Lane has put a new slant on evolution in his letter. Darwinian evolution, as championed by Dawkins, never imagined that poetry, emotion and mysticism, however important to humans, could have driven the evolution of any species. Perhaps Mr Lane could elaborate. Richard Dawkins has said that "One need

go no further than science to understand the universe". That science has not produced all the answers as yet, nor probably ever will, does not invalidate that proposition. It simply means that superstition is not a viable alternative. Peter Gibbs, 13 Fairway, Giron, Cambridge CB3 0QP.

FOR SOME time I have wondered whether Richard Dawkins' antagonism to religion is based on a wish to see it replaced by science. As a credible religion needs to express a satisfactory balance between reason and emotion, I find my speculation reinforced by his (quite correct) emphasis in the Dingleby Lecture on the emotional responses of scientists to the world that they explore and describe. A generation or more ago, that splendid scientist and polymath Julian Huxley wrote a book entitled Religion Without Revelation. This, too, had evolution as its leitmotif. My recollection is that the professed new form of religion he wrote like a lead balloon. Norman Sheppard, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ.

WHAT a load of Godswallop in response to Dawkins' essay from Philip Lloyd Lewis (Letters, November 14). So the law of gravity is just a conjuring trick? Then I must be mistaken in having always thought it a natural law, by its very orderliness controlling us all and having nothing to do with science. Perhaps Lewis should read Pater's lectures, who points out that we don't need "proofs" of, for example, the Earth's rotundity. "We accept the idea because the whole of navigation, aeronautics, geodesy, geometry, cartography

Getting all worked up about work in the course of 48 hours

HUGO Young's opposition to any limitation on working hours in the European Union (Commentary, November 12) has a familiar ring. The 1833 Act limiting the work of children under 13 hours a week was strongly opposed by an alliance of Radicals and Tories united by a belief that, as Cobett put it, "the industrial welfare of England depended on 30,000 little girls. If these little girls worked two hours a day less, our manufacturing supremacy would depart from us". In the event Britain's supremacy survived several further 19th Century Acts of Parliament regulating adult working hours and conditions — in defiance of Lord Brougham's 1832 contention that Parliament should not seek to "enforce a maximum number of hours for the work of grown men" — and we must now presume that Mr Young would have opposed them all.

What is perhaps more surprising is that a government seeking populist issues in its dying days should have lighted on one which has no popular appeal at all. Does Mr Major really believe that most working people want to work more than 48 hours a week without having a say in the matter and to forgo the right to paid holidays? David Gladstone, 17 Mountfort Terrace, London N1 1JJ.

CAN anyone enlighten me as to how a 48-hour-week would affect the teaching profession? Several years ago a directive laid down the number of hours they were contracted to work. This was abandoned because teachers regularly exceeded these hours. Surveys have shown that many teachers are working 58 to 70 hours a week. These hours result in the most stressed teachers, many of whom are having to take early retirement on health grounds. When will teachers be allowed to exercise the right not to work more than 48 hours a week? Clive Goodwin, 11 Herbert Road, Southsea, Hants PO4 0QA.

IS THERE any underpinning floor to wages and working conditions that would be acceptable to Hugo Young? Should we be striving to abolish slavery, especially child slavery, in Asia by whatever means we can, or should we be tearing up those pretty regulations that stand in the way of our conquests on equal terms? "Increased labour flexibility" — wage cuts and poorer working conditions — is always the prescription of the affluent for those at the bottom of the heap; we never hear calls to increase our competitiveness by slashing payments to company directors by the odd factor of 10. David Lewin, 50 Clive Road, Oxford OX4 3EL.

AS an occupational health expert, I find the Government's arguments that long hours of work are not a health and safety issue quite extraordinary. In my experience excessive overtime, long shifts and too short breaks between shifts have been responsible for more sick absence than the common infections. (Dr) Patricia Elliott, The Old Vicarage, Ashdon, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 2HG.

The first task in Zaire

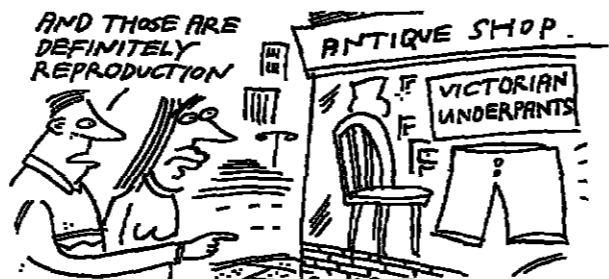
WHEN we see images of hungry people being beaten back from UN food warehouses, our instinct is to deliver aid (Mission to save million lives, November 14). Some 1.5 million lives in Central Africa now depend on a response, while many more will be involved in chaos and deprivation should we not act. Within Zaire there are forces that seek to benefit from the total breakdown of civil welfare systems. In nearby countries there are other clients of chaos whose agendas are built on terror. The warring factions use innocent civilians and human targets to create their power bases. The international force is therefore going to have to take over more than camps, airfields, radio stations and roads.

It will have to stop the armed and those who supply arms. It will then need to enable those who wish to head for home to undertake the difficult journey, helped by aid agencies. This has been placed already in neighbouring Rwanda, Communities, schools, agriculture, welfare systems can start up again once the conflict ceases and the people begin to utilise their own skills and energies and aspirations. This is happening today in Bosnia. It cannot begin, however, until those who create the terrorism see no way forward, and are brought to a halt. David R W Grubb, Executive Director, Children Aid Direct, 50 Caversham Road, Reading, Berks RG1 8AE.

A Country Diary

MAIDWELL: On a sunny November morning I write this on a hill-top high above the sea in Cardigan Bay. Yet today it is not the sea I look at so much as the land. From my high perch I see most of the parish in which I live on the south side of the Dyfi estuary. A part of the foothills of Fynllo, it is mainly a steeply tilted land deeply riven by streams that come hastening down wild, rocky, wooded valleys. Inevitably this is a sparsely populated parish but we do have three little villages along the main road that squeeze between uplands and estuary. We have a filling station with a shop, an 18th century iron-furnace, a chapel and a church that needs a new roof. We have neither a post office nor an inn but we do have a lively Women's Institute that next year will be celebrating its 75th birthday. Two centuries ago, when the local woodlands were being decimated to provide charcoal for our iron-

furnace, the parish might have been thoroughly industrialised. But mercifully iron-smelting migrated south to Glamorgan and today, far from being industrialised, our parish is rather strong on nature conservation: we have two large reserves and at the moment are trying to get another one established. And there are any parish anywhere without some precious area, however small, that cries out for some sort of safeguarding in these days when the countryside is under ever increasing threat from developers, speculators and philistines and when the prospects for some species of wildlife look so bleak? One thing is sure: even our choicest parishes will not survive unscathed unless enough of us are strong in their defence. In our parish the WI has long been on the side of conservation. So I pray it will go on fighting the good fight until its centenary and far beyond. WILLIAM CONDRY



A couple that hit below the belt

FOLLOWING the rejection of an ad for underpants by the Committee of Advertising Practice (Warning over men's briefs ad "sexist", November 13), may I draw your attention to a letter in the Lancet of June 29? The authors, writing from the Netherlands, reported that the wearing of tight-fitting underpants led to a halving of the number of sperm, while their mobility was a third of that of semen from men wearing boxer shorts. The study involved wearing the underpants 24 hours a day over six months, so it could be said that such behaviour would impair reproductive potential even more than any associated reduction in fertility could do. (Dr) Robert Blomfield, 7 Cressley Terrace, Hebbden Bridge, W Yorks.

DO NOT agree with Terry Dicks's views on homosexuality (Rented quotes, November 14). I do, however, find it strange that health workers planned to "visit gay pick-up points and offer advice on contraception". Haven't they rather missed the point? Luke Burrows, Limes Road, East Sussex BN8.

Our top company

ANOTHER example of British Gas's competence (Letters, November 9, 12). I rang the company to report a strong smell of gas at a remote country crossroads (I happen to know that there's a pipeline there). I was informed that the leak could not be reported unless I could provide the post-code of its location. Surely other companies can beat this for British Gas efficiency? A Taylor, 10 Eastfield, Stokesley, Cleveland.

Peak practice

ROAD accidents are quickly cleaned up — so we forget about the risks. Instead we should install a new type of street sign at particularly dangerous spots. They would state (with families' permission) the names and ages of those killed in recent years, and the dates of the crashes. Then watch drivers treat such roads with respect. E Bishop, London E7.

IN California, the leading vehicle must pull over to let others pass safely when three or more are waiting to overtake. With our more over-crowded roads, and the growth of road rage, we should introduce this into the Highway Code. Mary Lewis, 22 Hutton Road, Ash Vale, Aldershot GU12 5HA.

Please send brief proposals and responses to: Another Manifesto, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER (fax 0171 837 4530; e-mail manifesto@guardian.co.uk). Other comment letters to: letters@guardian.co.uk

Taste of his own medicine

IF ROY Lilley (Doctoring the system, Saturday, November 13) had done his homework he would have discovered that most of the extra payments he identifies that GPs may claim are included in the target net income of £48,000. These not in this sum are monies taken from them by Kenneth Clarke in the 1990 Contract. Without exception, surveys of patient satisfaction score their GPs very highly, which is more than can be said of other service providers. If people want their GPs to continue to feel undervalued in the face of increasing expectations of the service they provide, and a falling recruitment rate which could lead to the implementation of a privatised primary care system, then carry on under-paying those of us that have responsibility for them 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. (Dr) Doug Campbell, Lime Cottage, Lime Walk, Didsen Park, Southampton.

I AM incensed by your publishing of the diatribe by Roy Lilley, a former NHS manager with a chip on his shoulder about doctors. His points are not even worth refuting. In my view, except to say that NHS trust managers are an "occupational group" with higher earnings than doctors, higher pay rises, and far more rapacious motives for what they do. Their only qualification for the job (of being a used-car salesman) is common but not a necessary qualification: it is willingness to sacrifice patient care for a big salary bonus. (Dr) Peter D Barry, 17D Pembroke Place, Liverpool L3 5PF.

PLEASE allow a response to Roy Lilley's comical and nonsensical broadside against general practitioners. He appears to suffer from compulsive obsessive disorder with hatred for thousands of hard-working doctors in the NHS. He is pathological in his continuous vomit on NHS issues. Is there a doctor in his house to give this poor suffering man some common sense therapy? (Dr) V K Bansal, British Medical Association, 35 Seymour Terrace, Liverpool L3 5PE.

A Guardian addict writes

MY RETURN flight from Pakistan gave me my first opportunity for 10 days to see a London newspaper. Keen to read the major news stories about real life in Britain, I grabbed last Thursday's Guardian. Page one led with a splash story that a US image consultant might come to this country, complemented by a portrait in colour. The supporting story was an opinion-poll result. Page three was mostly about the hairstyles of politicians, illustrated by eight photographs. Page four led with "analysis" of the page one story on image-making, buttressed by a large photograph from within the White House of image-maker at work. Page eight carried the results of an opinion poll, plus bar chart, with the conclusion that the British are guilty about pleasure, although the public-policy implications of this insight were disappointingly undeveloped.

The opinion poll on pleasure only made it to the bottom of the page, but page nine made amends by splashing your own opinion poll on role models, complete with photo-montage, bar chart and insert box. The comment page was dominated by a column on the impact of politicians' images on women's votes, illustrated by a large cartoon of Tony Blair offering Milk Tray chocolates. I may have overlooked the odd place, but by my reckoning this single edition carried 395 column inches on images, opinion polls and focus groups, supported by 11 photographs and two cartoons. Real life in modern Britain was not entirely excluded. Page eight carried 20 column inches on the report that Britain now has more people below the poverty line than any other European country and that the gulf between our regions is widening. I became a Guardian addict out of a belief that it had a duty to inform and a responsibility to shape public debate. Show politicians that what drives the news agenda are opinion polls and hairstyles and we will get politicians who respond to those priorities. Splash on the rise in poverty in Britain and we might just get it given greater priority in public debate. (Sir) Hon Robin Cook MP, Shadow Foreign Secretary, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Fergie's fall from grace — and her golfball



Mark Lawson

FOR SOME weeks, I have spent quiet moments trying to predict the opening line of the autobiography of Sarah, Duchess of York. Fergie's history suggested that humility and apology were unlikely. Defiance or denial seemed more her style: "Everything I did, I did for my country", perhaps, or "The day that I asked Johnny Bryan to get a splinter out of my toe beside the pool was the day it all went wrong". Well, now we have it. The first sentence of My Story (Simon & Schuster) runs: "Of all the Queen's homes, Balmoral Castle is so special." Irrelevant, illiterate, un-informative, it perfectly sets the tone for a book littered with weird and unexpected sentences: "I am one for whom smells are important, who follows her nose". Or: "Sloanes

have the most riotous nicknames than any of those she identifies as Sloanes. Her father seems to have tutored her in emotional incontinence and financial recklessness. And then, there is her former sister-in-law, interviewed by Sue MacGregor on Radio 4's Today programme on Thursday, the Duchess was full of praise for that other member of the Royal First Wives Club: "Diana was my friend and she is my sister. We are still sisters." She means, presumably, a relationship of solidarity rather than genes. In the book, she describes them as "a natural-aid society, sisters under the skin". Yet so many of Fergie's difficulties come from not being Diana. They are indeed remarkably similar — disturbed young women from broken homes who have become self-deluded gluttons for publicity — but their effect on others is entirely different. If you set out to design by computer a woman likely to invite male lust and female sympathy in Britain, you would select a thin, shy blonde with a talent for dramatising her own suffering. If you then tried to create a counterpart calculated to generate dislike from all sides, you would pump for a fat, bumptious redhead with a

skill for orchestrating debacles. Her every appearance sends the public what they liked about the other one. The princess was regarded as sexy; the duchess as sexy. Diana is a genius at public relations; Fergie a maestro at media relations. Diana comes up with sentimental but effective stuff about the need to give children hugs. Fergie's attempted imitation — "A smile takes a minute and costs very little" — simply makes you wonder how many people grin and what spendthrift Fergie would be doing with something inexpensive. Seeking to build her own image at the expense of her former in-laws, Diana gave us a carefully controlled television interview in which she displayed a sophisticated understanding of the body-language of victimhood and the verbiage of psycho-analysis. Attempting a similar exercise, poor Fergie, who always wants too much of everything, gives half a dozen or more interviews, exposing the artifice of her well-rehearsed answers. Asked by Elizabeth Grice in the Daily Telegraph whether she had contemplated suicide, she replied, crisply, very school of Diana: "Can't even spell the word. But when Sue MacGregor phoned the

question slightly differently — "Did you ever think of doing away with yourself?" — she again answered, "Can't even spell the word", creating an effect reminiscent of the Two Ronnies sketch in which a man always answers the question before last. (Some one-liners, apparently prepared for speech at a television interview, were hastily adapted to interview format: "I stand here for the truth", she told Sue MacGregor. "I, er, sit here for the truth.") The book and the interviews leave little doubt that Sarah, Duchess of York, was born with a self-destruct button. Her unfortunate taste in clothes and home decoration was mirrored in her selection of friends. She still seems to think the story is that she was let down by Madame Vasso, Bryant and Starke, but the real story is that she ever let them up.

Some of her complaints about external forces are, however, justified. When the marriage of Charles and Diana failed, a common view was that the strictures and traditions of the royal family had necessitated an arrangementless marriage between two unsuitable people. Yet a marriage which was the precise opposite — an apparently genuine romantic and sexual match, produced through

صلى الله عليه وسلم

صكرا من الامل

The hunting of the quark of politics

Commentary
Martin Woollacott

IT HAS long been accepted, in science, that the act of measurement can alter the thing being measured. Laymen grope with the notion of particles so elusive and changeable that capturing them for a millisecond is a triumph. Something similar is beginning to happen in politics, where the hunting of the quark, defined as the momentary mood of the public, has become so central an activity.

Both took money in even larger amounts than in the past from domestic and foreign companies and groups. This buying your own deregulation or buying your own foreign policy is of course outrageous. It is also wrong that these bribes should be passed on to the media, mainly television, in the form of payment for political advertising, and to the growing industry of political investigation and opinion management with its pollsters, consultants, campaign planners, and focus-group impresarios.

The public wants to know what the politicians represent and how to react to the political scene, and takes its cue from the media, from which it picks up, ready made, all kinds of formulae for expressing political views. The media want to offer themselves as critics of the political class and as experts on public opinion. At each point of the triangle there is an attempt to measure the others — and modify behaviour accordingly — but the actors, whether politicians, press, or public, are no longer autonomous.

There is a hunger for authenticity as the number of confected political appeals increases. It is interesting that candidates when discussing these subjects 20 years ago, have had to adapt themselves to the "television age". That suggests politicians working from a stiff agenda which they then have to translate into the requisite soundbites, rebuttals and discourses on newness. No, the suspicion grows that the solid agenda has become diffuse, a product of the efforts to ascertain and play to public feeling, and that the message, in other words, has become the medium.

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Shared memory of loss



Martin Kettle

FOR connoisseurs of this newspaper quite the most remarkable event of this week took place behind our own closed doors and went properly unreported in the following day's edition. Nevertheless, in my dozen years at the paper I have never known the like of it.

those on the left who will offer a facile explanation. They will see it as just another in a long line of compromises with the culture of the English establishment. Probably some will say that it proves what they have suspected about the Guardian all along. Others on the right will take the opposite view, surprised by an anecdote that runs counter to their stereotypical view of this newspaper as a home for dedicated subversives and inveterate iconoclasts. And there are certainly those who think it only goes to show the cultural power of the tabloids which have done so much to flann up the campaign for a national stoppage on November 11.

How BBC drama is being neutered

Alan Plater knows a bit about the world of plays for TV and radio, and he's convinced that the Birtan BBC-management revolution is making that world a hard and deeply depressing — if sometimes laughable — place

THE SPIN doctors at BBC Television Centre will, no doubt, have spotted another letter to the Guardian from the Writers' Guild of Great Britain and filed it under FW for Predictable Whinge. It has happened before, during the Strange Case of the Disappearing Script Unit and The Inexplicable Affair of Extending Choice, and it will no doubt happen again.

Our problem, as writers, is that we ask silly questions like why, if they are called reforms, do they always make things worse? The Health Service, state education, public transport and a huge range of public institutions have all been reformed to Hell and back during the last 15 years and we are still being assured that the improvements will begin to bite in the next week or 10 days.



PHOTOMONTAGE ROGER TOOTH

Moving on to the 250 promises, I cannot tell a lie. I haven't read them; I'm still trying to finish *Extending Choice*. I freely acknowledge that these promises have been made because Virginia Bottomley requested something of the sort from the Corporation: a mission statement, no less. But what happens next? Will writers have to learn the promises and recite them before work every day like we used to at pack meetings

dramatised some of the Dalziel and Pascoe novels by Reginald Hill. Essentially, it's a cop show. Dalziel is an old-style copper who wears like an old-style copper. One of the main joys of the books is Dalziel's creative use of the profane. Mamet and *Class* win awards for this class of work.

nobody communicated any of this directly to the writers — Malcolm Bradbury and myself — and we only know what we read in the papers. We are now in production with a second series and there is a procedure. Each script is sent from Pebble Mill in Birmingham to the Head of Something in London. (I've christened him the Head of Buggery and Blasphemy) with all the swear-words highlighted. He then sends a memo to the production office with alternatives where he feels the sensibilities of the nation might be at risk.

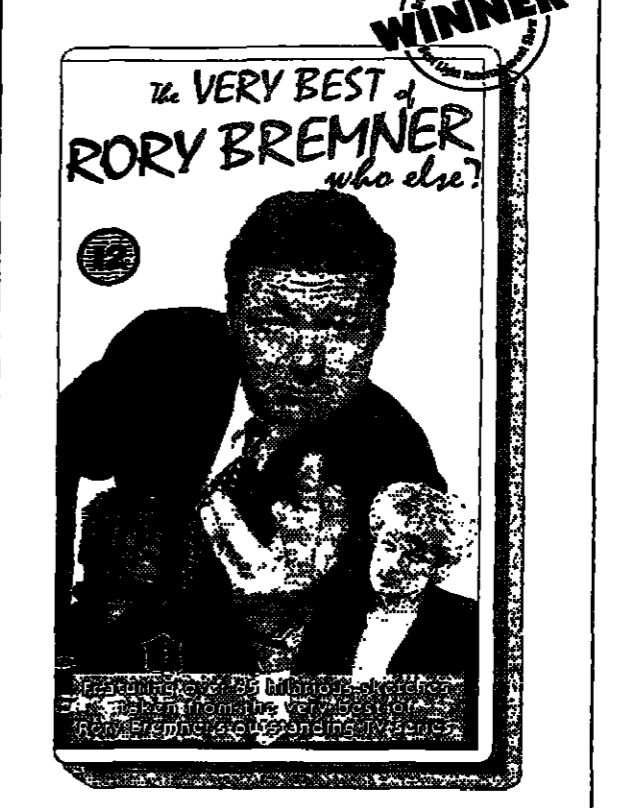
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days, you wait six weeks for someone to return a phone call, and once you embark on the writing process, there will be a long line of important people standing between the words and the screen: producer, co-producer, associate producer, director, script editor, departmental head, programme controller and the man in charge of sweating, of whom more later. Now we are assured, the BBC is now more assured. Speaking as one who once won a prize in O-level maths, let me state, categorically, that eight people will always cost more than one.

when we were in the Cuts? The Cuts, in any case, managed with one all-embracing promise. Christianity has trouble enough with 10 commandments. In my dreams I hear a jazz musician saying: "That's a whole gang of promises you've got there, Birt baby."

A good deal of the public debate has been concerned with sex, violence and language, and it might illuminate the discussion if I reveal how the latter problem is currently dealt with on the shop floor. My most recent work for BBC television, has been to

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I wrote my first television

THIS WEEK'S essayist, Alan Plater, trained as an architect before becoming a full-time writer in 1960. His television work has ranged from *Z Cars* and *Broadcaster Chronicles* to *A Very British Coup* and *The Bolderbecker Trilogy*; his awards include *Baftas*, an *Emmy*, the *RTS Writers' Award* and the *Golden Fleece of Georgia*. He has also written for screen, theatre and radio

Opposition hardens stand against pay bonanza ● Pensioners and unions join in condemnation

'Fat cats' in Labour sights

Chris Barrie and Celia Weston

LABOUR yesterday served notice on the privatised industries and the Government that it will not back down on plans to levy a windfall tax and that exposing fat cat payments to utility industry executives will be high on the party's electoral agenda.

The Opposition hardened its stand against the pay bonanza for some company executives after revelations in the Guardian that a small number of senior managers from the privatised electricity companies made close to £27

million from recent takeovers and mergers.

As pensioners and unions condemned the huge payments in share options and as compensation for loss of office, Labour said it would use this latest evidence of corporate complacency and promote vigorously its plans for a windfall tax on the privatised utilities.

The Guardian's analysis was based on compensation payments made to executives following last year's takeovers of Eastern Group, Norweb, Seaboard, South Wales Electricity, and Manweb.

Jack Jones, president of the National Pensioners Convention, called for the executive

pay bonanza to be used instead to eliminate standing charges on electricity bills for the elderly.

Swift reaction came, too, from employee representatives. Mike Jeram, head of energy at the union, Unison, said: "Coming in a week when we learn that 1,000 jobs are to go in Norweb Retail, affecting mainly low-paid women, it shows the vast gulf between the haves and the have-nots in the electricity industry."

Alan Milburn, a senior member of Labour's Treasury team, last night warned that the public would be disgusted by the scale of the telephone number salaries and kick-backs. "While executive pay

abuse is handing out windfall gains to a few, Labour's windfall tax on the excess profits at the privatised utilities will fund a jobs programme for the many."

Brian Wilson, Labour's campaigns organiser, condemned ministers' protestations about the utilities' inability to afford the windfall tax. "They will sound even more hollow after these revelations." And he attacked the Prime Minister for wielding little influence over his greed-lust supporters. "On innumerable occasions he has put on his stern voice to say how much he disapproves of fat cat behaviour and they just carry on ignoring him."

But the Trade and Industry

Secretary, Ian Lang, declined to condemn the payouts. Boardroom "adjustments" were a matter for the directors concerned, he said. The payouts were "entirely separate" to decisions made by his department on whether to allow further takeovers in the power industry.

Although some utilities are replacing controversial share option schemes, following recommendations on executive pay by the CBI-sponsored Greenbury committee, new long-term incentive plans (LTIPs) are likely to prove even more lucrative for utility company directors.

The CBI director general, Adair Turner, refused to comment on windfall gains made

by power company leaders. But the Association of British Insurers, representing institutional investors who own one in three of all shares, said share options were not an appropriate system of reward for newly privatised concerns such as the regional electricity companies.

Meanwhile, United Utilities came to the defence of former Norweb chairman, Ken Harvey. The company denied his salary had been increased substantially, stating that his remuneration of £610,248 included a £407,300 payment for loss of office. This means Mr Harvey's earnings were about £24.7 million, including pension payments and potential profits from share options.

Notebook

Inflation could still spoil it all



Alex Brummer

THE pound is up 9.5 per cent since August, and this sharp climb is the most unexpected economic development this year. But what is welcomed by holiday-makers, and by those politicians who believe that the pound's strength is a symbol of economic vitality, is also a cause of some distress to industrialists.

Like so many of the post-war upswings in Britain's economic cycle, this one has been built on a strong export performance in the wake of a devaluation.

It can be argued that the authorities, by recently increasing the base rate to 6 per cent, have not helped themselves to deal with the problems arising from a strong pound. All that has done, the argument runs, is widen the differentials between interest rates here and among our main trading partners, pushing sterling even higher and raising expectations of further hikes to come.

But it is not the pound that the authorities are monitoring. The view on Threadneedle Street is that the only thing that matters is — as the Americans might say — domestic demand, stupid. It is in the housing market, in the market for consumer credit and on the high street that the danger signals have been seen. So the Bank of England — and for that matter the Halifax — have moved to calm down the excitement.

The authorities believe they have no choice, despite the firmness of sterling. The strength of the pound is due to temporary factors, like the dip in the oil price, whereas there is danger that inflation, running at twice European levels, could become entrenched. Of course, it would be better if sterling were lower. But cutting rates, or taking foreign currency into the reserves, would only pour fuel on domestic demand.

There remains open, however, the possibility of jawboning the pound down ... perhaps with the help of the G7. That can work, as the dollar revival demonstrates.

As for the underlying picture, there will be no serious surprises for those who recognised that the Government, desperate to plug the holes in the public finances before the election, disposed of Railtrack too cheaply.

Profits, before property gains, climbed to £150 million from £28 million, although a great chunk of this can be attributed to the lower interest charge of £13 million against £22 million. Much of Railtrack's debt was cleared ahead of privatisation, to ensure the newly-quoted group had sufficient resources to embark on an extensive modernisation programme of the track network.

The great unknown in the Railtrack float was always going to be the property portfolio, with the suspicion that the development opportunities at key stations, including St Pancras, was as valuable as the operating company itself. Investors will not be disappointed. One-time gains were £23 million and with UK commercial property on an upswing in yields and values there should be plenty to come from this source.

Lloyd's clean-up

NOW that Lloyd's of London has ditched its ghastly past, it is sensibly thinking about its future prospects. While the insurance market has been digging its way out from under the £8 billion losses of 1988-92 and the unfortunate consequences of unlimited liability among Names, its competitive position vis-à-vis insurance markets in Switzerland, Munich in Germany and North America has been damaged and the historic brand value of the Lloyd's name eroded.

Restoration is not necessarily an impossible task: great financial names can bounce back from the dead as the Earls part of ING (twice dead and twice revived) has demonstrated.

It is to this end that Lloyd's has set about a major revamp of the way the Corporation, which provides the market with its main central services. In the past, it has been notoriously intransigent. Anyone who tracked the Corporation's forecasting record, compared to that of shadow organisations like Chatset, would be acutely aware of the qualitative problems.

But it is not just forecasting services as that, which has failed. The market has suffered from a lack of transparency in its costs, billing arrangements and profits, all of which has added to the air of mystique surrounding activity inside the smoked glass tower.

This will be particularly important in the US market, still Lloyd's most significant, which in future is to be run through a new New York office with direct links to regulators and markets. Inevitably, such regulations — which these days focus on better IT — will result in a slimmer Lloyd's and one which, like the Stock Exchange, will go outside for some central services.

There is still one area which the new Lloyd's has to address fully: regulation. The failure of the market's old guard and the Government to take this by the horns and appoint an outside regulator is among the reasons that Peter Middleton, architect of much of the revamping, left so hurriedly. Yet this fundamental plank of reform cannot be put in place until there is a new Lloyd's Act.

Railway riches

EXECUTIVES of Railtrack will be watching the renewed debate over pay in the privatised utilities with particular interest. In the six months since the company's partly-paid shares were issued at 190p, the shares have climbed 69 per cent to 323.5p, where it is already above the level at which their share options can be exercised.

Moreover, the better-than-expected profits performance — up 77 per cent in the first period as a public company — augurs extremely well for the profit-related share option scheme which, if targets are exceeded over a three-year period, could eventually generate a cascade of new options up to five times their put aside. It could prove a difficult problem for the remuneration committee, headed by would-be Tory grandee Archie Norman of Asda — unless he quietly moves off.

Brussels puts BT bid for MCI on fast track

Nicholas Bannister

BRITISH Telecom appears to have cleared the first hurdle in its £12 billion bid for MCI, with the European Commission indicating it will examine the bid under its one-stop-shop merger rules.

Karel Van Miert, the competition commissioner, suggested that he would be able to examine the takeover under fast-track merger rules, which require a final decision within five months.

He said that, after an analysis of MCI's turnover, it was "pretty clear" the case would be handled by the European authorities.

BT and MCI wanted the fast-track route rather than an investigation handled by the UK authorities or conducted under the more complex European fair-trading regulations.

MCI had to have an EU turnover of more than 250 million ecu (£192 million) to qualify for the fast-track system.

Mortgage lenders seek ad changes

Richard Miles

MORTGAGE lenders yesterday called on the Government to change the rules on home loan advertisements after the High Court outlawed the practice of promoting curative mortgages at their discounted rates.

Most building societies offer low-cost mortgages with heavily discounted interest rates for a short period. These then revert to the standard variable rate for the remainder of the 25-year term.

But two judges in the High Court ruled earlier this week that Scarborough Building Society had misled borrowers by advertising one of its mortgages as though the initial 1 per cent start-up rate applied to the full term.

Michael Coogan of the Council of Mortgage Lenders said this "widespread practice" was forced on building societies by earlier court judgments. "This is a good example of how legislation designed to help consumers can fail to meet that objective," he said.

Rover to build £400m engine plant

Chris Barrie Business Correspondent

ROVER will invest £400 million in a new greenfield engine plant in a move that will secure up to 6,500 jobs in the West Midlands and spells cuts in the huge Longbridge plant nearby.

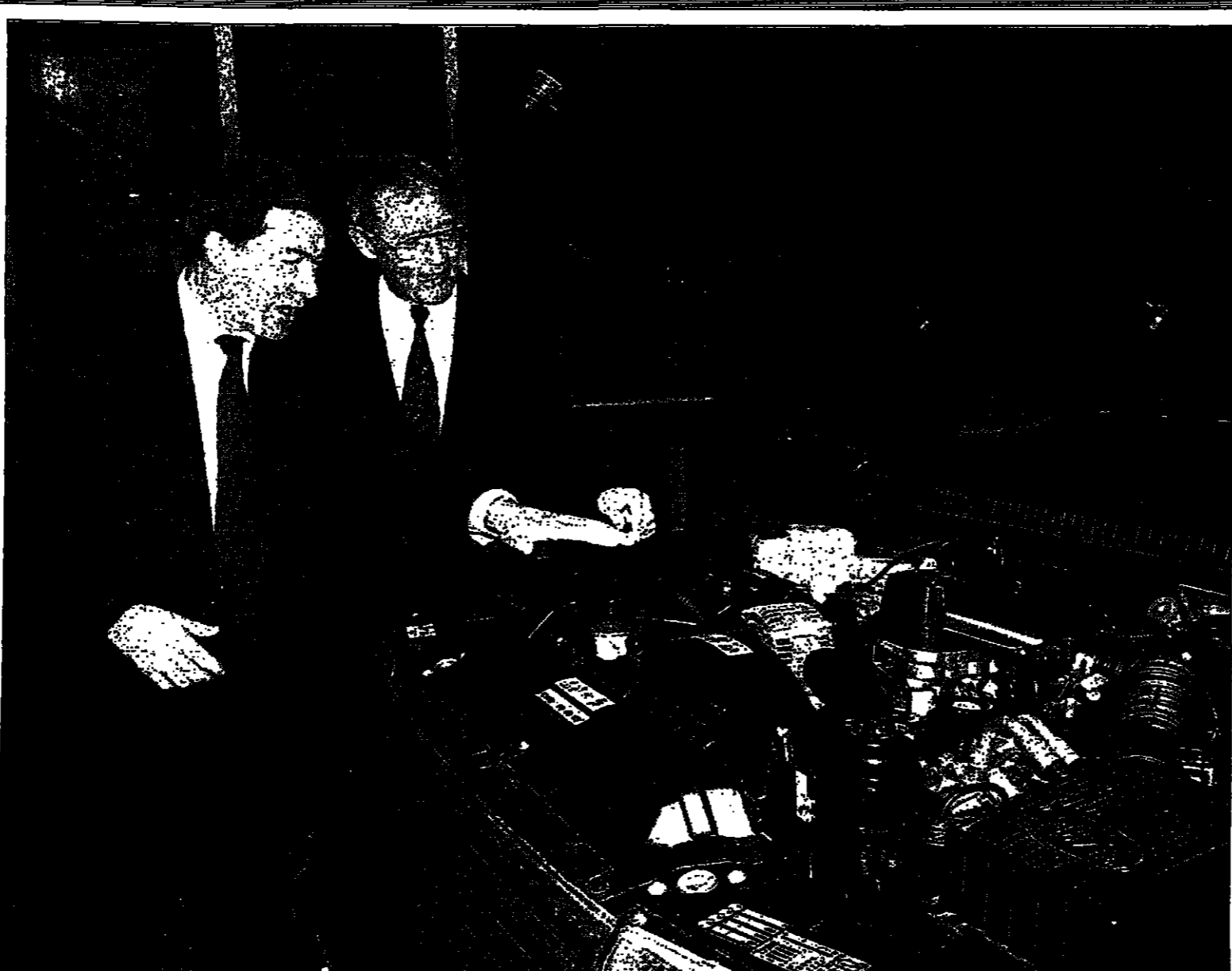
The investment, agreed by Rover's parent company BMW, was finalised on Thursday night, after five months of negotiation with the Government, when Trade and Industry Secretary Ian Lang stepped into the talks by offering "a little more money" to BMW chairman Bernd Pischetsrieder.

The Government is contributing £22.5 million in regional selective assistance and as much again in indirect help towards training costs and infrastructure development. The aid has yet to be vetted by the European Commission.

The investment, which will affect key West Midlands constituencies, was welcomed by the Prime Minister, who said investors were attracted by the UK's competitiveness.

Attacking the European working-time directive, which lays down a 48-hour maximum working week, Mr Major warned: "Other measures which would follow it would damage that competitiveness and reduce the chance of such investments in future."

The new plant will be operational by the beginning of next year. It will supply both Rover and BMW, making 600,000 1.6- and two-



Hands on ... Ian Lang, left, and Walter Hasselkus make an under-the-bonnet inspection yesterday

litre engines a year with a 1,500 work force. Some 5,000 jobs will be secured in supplier companies.

But the investment means that Longbridge, making 340,000 engines a year with 6,000 people, will see its output decline.

Rover chief executive Walter Hasselkus said the company did not intend to halt engine output from Longbridge altogether, but acknowledged that there

was no commitment yet to replace its existing K-series engine range with a new unit. Longbridge engine workers will be offered transfers to the new site, at Hams Hall, and to car assembly plants.

The company has already announced it will invest in new car assembly operations at Longbridge.

Tony Woodley, national secretary of the Transport and General Workers

Union, welcomed the investment but called on BMW to name the cars to be built at Longbridge.

Dr Hasselkus said labour costs had been a reason for locating the new plant in the UK rather than the main alternative, at Steyr in Austria. The group could have received more aid elsewhere, but opted for "the best long-term strategic solution".

The announcement will

go some way towards offsetting BMW's recent decision to invest in a new engine plant with US company Chrysler. Engines from this factory will be imported for the replacement for the Mini, which is under development.

It is hardly surprising that BMW chose the UK for its new engine factory rather than locating it in its home territory, writes Julia Glazer.

Germany's industry body, the VDA, recently published a study showing that, in comparison with other industrialised countries, Germany is "world champion in all the wrong disciplines", whereas the UK is often leading the pack.

For example, labour costs in Britain average £10 an hour, compared with £24 in Germany, and health and pensions benefits cost less than a third in the UK.

City fraud claim 'left life in ruins'

Telex operator tells of breakdown after £4m swindle at merchant bank

Dan Atkinson

ONE OF three people accused of the £4 million telex scam at merchant bank Leazards has told how her life was destroyed by the police inquiry into the swindle. "I lost everything ... I lost my good name," Dorothy Willis said.

Cleared of involvement in the crime, Mrs Willis, aged 50, was made redundant by Leazards, with her two colleagues, and suffered a nervous breakdown. Leazards provided psychiatric counselling, but none of the three has worked in the City since.

During three grueling interrogations, police asked Mrs Willis who she was sleeping with. Mrs Willis had been widowed a year earlier. She was further threatened with being "locked up" should she divulge information about the fraud to others.

Mrs Willis, of Ilford, Essex, had worked for Leazards for 14 years. She became "a screaming wreck of her former self", according to a friend.

Another telex operator, Jacqueline Tomlinson, was charged with taking part in the crime, but the case collapsed last week when the Crown case was torpedoed by evidence of slack security at

Leazards. This laxity meant my number of people could have been responsible.

Mrs Willis's ordeal began on September 22, 1992. At about 5.17pm, two forged telexes were transmitted to banks in Zurich and Frankfurt falsely authorising the payment of more than £4 million. Mrs Willis and Miss Tomlinson were on duty in the telex room that afternoon. The third telex operator, Brian Brown, had left earlier, but returned briefly at about 5.30pm and again at 5.30pm. Mrs Willis had left the office at 4.40pm to buy a loaf of bread and she clocked back on to her machine at 5.03pm.

A month earlier, the system for testing telexes to ensure their validity had been changed so as to break the link between one operator and an individual telex. Presumably it would have been impossible to carry out the fraud without identifying the perpetrator. In addition, key jobs — including that of internal auditor, head of personnel and head of the testing department — had changed hands in previous months.

Leazards initially ignored a warning message on September 23 from one of the correspondent banks. It was not until September 25 that the bank realised it had been defrauded.

Mrs Willis was interviewed "in the most brutal manner" by police in early October. She was suspended on November 10 by Leazards and on March 31, 1993 was made redundant. She estimates her losses at £40,000.

CBI presses Labour to dilute its training plan

Richard Thomas Economics Correspondent

BUSINESS leaders are mounting a behind-the-scenes campaign aimed at forcing Labour to dilute its commitment to link collective bargaining with training provision in the workplace.

Although company directors have welcomed the Opposition's abandonment of a compulsory training levy, CBI officials are concerned that trade union legislation will be used as a "back door" influence on firms' business.

One CBI policymaker said: "We are in talks with Labour about this. They have gone a long way to meet our concerns, but this is something which still worries business."

He said that the CBI would exert only direct pressure on the front bench, because public statements could be seen as undermining the employers' group's politically neutral stance.

But Labour front-benchers said employers must be encouraged to provide training provision, pointing to the CBI's regional trends survey — published yesterday — which showed that companies in the industrial heartlands were suffering a skills shortage.

Stephen Byers, Labour employment spokesman, said: "The inclusion of training in the four compulsory elements of collective agreements — along with pay, holidays and working hours — is a recognition of the importance of training holds for New Labour."

Leaves-on-line action as Railtrack shares surge

Keith Harper Transport Editor

SHARES in Railtrack surged more than 20 per cent yesterday after it surprised the stock market with better than expected profits and announced measures aimed at tackling leaves-on-line delays.

The announcement that Railtrack made £172 million pre-tax profits in its first six months as a private company sent shares up 98.5p to 323.5p. The flotation price was 190p. The track operator is to pay an interim dividend of 7.5p a share next February.

A good initial performance was always expected because the Government wrote off the industry's £1.2 billion debt before privatisation and sold Railtrack for £1.9 billion, a third of its value.

The company promised to make sure disruption caused by bad weather was minimised. Over the winter, steps to remove leaves from the line more effectively are to take place in East Anglia and the South-west, using a high-speed water spray developed on European railways.

John Edmunds, Railtrack's chief executive, said it wanted to improve winter performance when services were less reliable and punctuality dipped. He admitted that bad weather could have "quite serious" consequences, and Railtrack had to prepare contingency plans.

In an upbeat approach to the accounts, Mr Edmunds claimed a 30 per cent performance improvement in passenger services compared to the same period last year, a figure already being questioned by one rail watchdog.

Asked what would happen if Labour won the election, Mr Edmunds said that Railtrack's policy was the same as Labour's: "We want to carry more passengers and freight. We don't want to re-visit the stale arguments about privatisation."

India's enforcement directorate, an arm of the finance ministry, has raided the homes of present and former ITC executives in connection with the allegations. The directorate's deputy director, KK Kabiripathi, said yesterday that BAT was aware of the alleged violations.

But BAT — which is expected to take a controlling stake in ITC once the row has died down — said last night that it was not involved in any way. Michael Pridesaux, BAT's spokesman, said: "We had suspicions about them, and had brought them to the board's attention, but Mr Chugh's unwillingness brought them into conflict

BAT 'knew of exchange abuses'

Ian King

BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services combine, admitted yesterday that it had been aware of possible foreign exchange violations by ITC, its Indian subsidiary, more than a year ago.

BAT, which owns a 31 per cent stake in ITC, said it had warned ITC's disgraced former chairman, Krishan Lal Chugh, and ordered an independent audit of the group's affairs. ITC, India's biggest tobacco firm, is at the centre of allegations it illegally transferred money abroad and booked fake profits.

with us. But the idea that we withheld information is utterly untrue."

ITC is unlikely to replace any of its senior officials until after its interim results are published later this month.

If ITC is found guilty of the alleged offences, it could be fined up to 17.5 billion rupees (£280 million), making it vulnerable to a full takeover by BAT. Mr Pridesaux said last night that BAT had already held discussions with ITC's institutional shareholders.

A number of ITC's Indian employees have made a public appeal to BAT, imploring it to take the company over as soon as possible. BAT shares closed 6p higher at 426.5p.

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Finance Guardian

Voters face a cocktail of austerity and job losses

Brazil is grappling with the Real problems, reports MARK MILNER in Sao Paulo

FEW would argue with the assessment asserted by Roberto Civita, boss of Brazil's leading media group, about the challenges facing his country: "Our problems are simple — big but simple."

That comes with the country. Brazil is huge — the same size as the US, without Alaska.

More than 3,300 miles separate Boa Vista in the north from Forte Allegre in the south; the western city of Rio Branco is a similar distance from Recife in the east. The state of Sao Paulo has a bigger economy than that of Argentina.

But simple? Hardly. Even the most cursory glance shows the country has what one economist, with considerable understatement, describes as "lousy income distribution" among its 159 million inhabitants.

In Sao Paulo's barely com-



No Manhattan this... Sao Paulo's mixture of skyscrapers and shanty towns symbolises the national economic malaise

prehensible urban sprawl, where tower blocks jumble in ranges for as far as the eye can see and the roads are gridlocked from dawn to dusk, shanty towns cower in the shadow of gleaming modern skyscrapers.

The homeless huddle in doorways. The rich hide behind iron bars and security guards in the city's posh Morumbi district.

Ninety minutes' flying time away from Sao Paulo's chaotic dynamism lies the country's capital, Brasilia. Oscar Niemeyer's architectural masterpiece of Stalinist sterility. There the government of Fernando Henrique Cardoso is attempting to tackle Brazil's ills by reforming an economy crippled by decades of inflation and protectionism.

Since the introduction of the Real plan — which pegged the new currency against the dollar — in 1994, inflation has tumbled. Once 50 per cent a

month, it has now (just) fallen to an annual rate which is (just) in single figures.

That, according to finance minister Pedro Malan, has already brought benefits to many of the poorer members of Brazilian society because it has meant a big boost to their purchasing power. Industrialists report that it has also stimulated demand for consumer goods among those higher up the income scale.

Confidence in the government's economic management has brought an increase in foreign investment. Foreign exchange reserves have climbed to almost \$60 billion (£37.5 billion).

The Real plan managed to weather the 'Tequila surprise' — the capital flight from Mexico which then spread south — although that was achieved at the cost of even higher interest rates and an, albeit temporary, \$5 billion hit on the foreign reserves.

Despite such successes, the government has its critics. For them growth — 3 per cent this year and around 4.5 per cent next — is too low. "We could do better, say 6 per cent. For the next couple of years the country can manage — but after that we need a faster growth rate," reckons Afonso Pastore, a former governor of Brazil's central bank.

Nor is the growth uniform. According to Mr Pastore,

spending on consumer goods is growing strongly but the capital goods sector has recorded a fall.

The trade balance, too, is a problem. The current account is in the red to the tune of about \$7 billion a month. The deficit is being made up by the flow of foreign funds. Some of it is hot money, attracted by Brazil's high interest rates. Hence, therefore, are pinned on Brazil's ability

to attract more foreign investment in bricks and mortar, plant and machinery. That could hit \$10 billion next year, if the privatisation programme goes according to plan.

The key, however, may lie in the government's ability to sort out the public finances. Public sector debt is around 35 per cent of gross domestic product. That is low by international standards but Dr Malan says: "I don't derive much satisfaction from that."

Small wonder, when interest rates are 24 per cent and the average maturity of the debt is only seven months.

Reducing the burden will not be easy.

The government is facing conflicting pressures. Industrialists are pressing for a reduction in indirect employment costs, which can amount to two-thirds of the direct wage bill. "That's why everyone is asking for fiscal reform," says Rene Campanha, general manager of Walita, the Brazilian subsidiary of the Philips electronics group.

On the other hand, the federal government in Brasilia has to persuade the state and municipal authorities to trim their spending. According to Dr Malan, some are spending 100 per cent of their revenue on wages alone.

Cutting spending means cutting jobs — at a time when

trade liberalisation is forcing the private sector to shed workers in order to be competitive, and about 2 per cent more Brazilians a year are looking for work.

Mr Cardoso has political problems of his own. He is currently seeking constitutional reform which would allow him to stand for a second presidential term. The tide, however, may be turning against him.

This weekend, the voters of

Mr Cardoso stand against him.

Building support elsewhere could detract from efforts at fiscal reform — not least because of the concessions Mr Cardoso may be forced to make in order to build support for the constitutional changes he wants.

Still, despite a Thatcherite air about his administration's economic policy, Mr Cardoso has a reputation for preferring conciliation to confrontation and may get his way yet.

Foreign investors are likely to hope so. As the architect of the Real plan, Mr Cardoso has a well-established commit-

Scholarly minister hedges bets on inflation gamble

PEDRO MALAN does not look like a gambler. Pipe-smoking and bespectacled, he projects the image of the career civil servant he has been for much of his working life.

Progress is being made. Growth this year is expected to be 3 per cent — down on 1995 — but is forecast to climb to 4.5 per cent next year. That might not look too spectacular for a developing economy, but Dr Malan points out that it will mean the Brazilian economy will have grown by 30 per cent in real terms in five years.

growth, higher employment, a manageable balance of payments situation and brought the public sector debt down to a manageable level. "All this without going soft on inflation."

Progress is being made. Growth this year is expected to be 3 per cent — down on 1995 — but is forecast to climb to 4.5 per cent next year. That might not look too spectacular for a developing economy, but Dr Malan points out that it will mean the Brazilian economy will have grown by 30 per cent in real terms in five years.

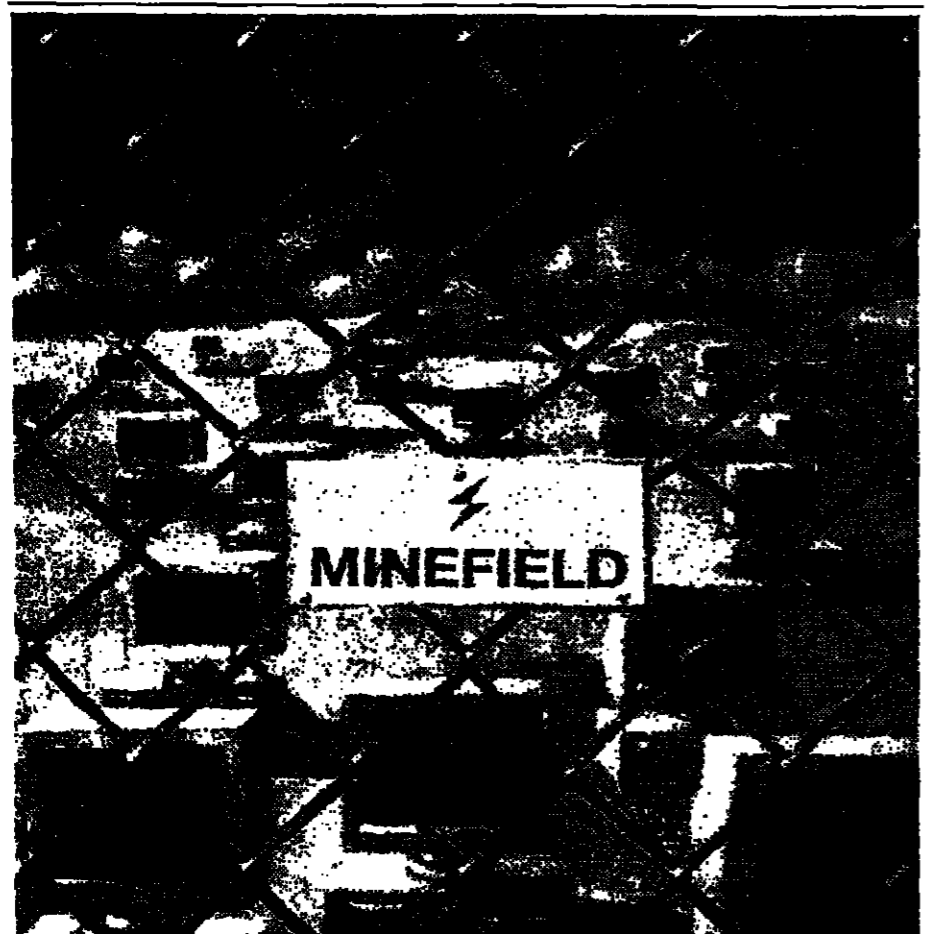
Public sector debt may be relatively low but interest rates run at 24 per cent and the average maturity of loans is seven months

ment to stabilisation. The combination of slow growth and low inflation may frustrate domestic critics but it will help keep investment flowing in from abroad.

If Mr Cardoso fails to get his way on constitutional change, Brazil will, at best, face a period of protracted uncertainty.

At worst, according to one observer, it could open the door, dangerously, to a populist president.

Could he mean Mr Maluf?



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Personal Computer World

16 YEARS' EXPERIENCE SETS US A WORLD APART

Dr Malan, however, is now Brazil's minister of finance, a key player in president Fernando Henrique Cardoso's attempt to wean the country off its decades-long addiction to inflation and on to the path of sustainable economic growth.

And it is a gambling metaphor on which Dr Malan — he has a PhD in economics from Berkeley, California — draws when he talks of the government's progress in tackling the economic challenges it faces.

Two-and-a-half years ago when the Cardoso administration launched its Real plan, he is more cautious about the new currency which forms a central plank of the programme — inflation was running at 30 per cent a month. Wage indexation, linked to historic levels of inflation, ensured a continuation of the savage price spiral. Today wholesale price inflation is running at just under 10 per cent a year and is forecast to fall to 5 per cent in 1997.

AS TO the public finances, deals have been struck with a number of Brazil's power states to help trim their spending. A wage freeze has been imposed on civil servants. Privatisation is helping, though critics suggest the administration could move faster.

Dr Malan is adamant that there is no lack of political will. Public money, he says, should be spent on health care and education "not on running steel and petrochemical plants".

Certainly cuts in the debt burden are needed. Brazil's public sector debt may not look high at 35 per cent of gross domestic product — many European countries are struggling to meet the Maastricht criterion of 60 per cent — but interest rates are high and maturities short.

"We are not underestimating the magnitude of the challenge. But we are changing the agenda and it will be very hard to depart from the broad outlines of that agenda — not because it is ours, but because it is what the majority of Brazilians want."

But if Dr Malan believes the government has won its first bet by bringing down inflation to single figures for the first time in four decades, he is more cautious about the second part of the strategy.

"We are still playing the cards, we are still at the table. It will be some years before we will be able to express, with a high degree of confidence, that we have been able to create the conditions for sustainable

growth, higher employment, a manageable balance of payments situation and brought the public sector debt down to a manageable level. "All this without going soft on inflation."

Progress is being made. Growth this year is expected to be 3 per cent — down on 1995 — but is forecast to climb to 4.5 per cent next year. That might not look too spectacular for a developing economy, but Dr Malan points out that it will mean the Brazilian economy will have grown by 30 per cent in real terms in five years.

It will be very hard to depart from the broad outlines of the agenda, because it is what Brazilians want

to attract more foreign investment in bricks and mortar, plant and machinery. That could hit \$10 billion next year, if the privatisation programme goes according to plan.

The key, however, may lie in the government's ability to sort out the public finances. Public sector debt is around 35 per cent of gross domestic product. That is low by international standards but Dr Malan says: "I don't derive much satisfaction from that."

Small wonder, when interest rates are 24 per cent and the average maturity of the debt is only seven months.

Reducing the burden will not be easy.

The government is facing conflicting pressures. Industrialists are pressing for a reduction in indirect employment costs, which can amount to two-thirds of the direct wage bill. "That's why everyone is asking for fiscal reform," says Rene Campanha, general manager of Walita, the Brazilian subsidiary of the Philips electronics group.

On the other hand, the federal government in Brasilia has to persuade the state and municipal authorities to trim their spending. According to Dr Malan, some are spending 100 per cent of their revenue on wages alone.

Cutting spending means cutting jobs — at a time when

Quick Crossword No. 8285

Across

1 A parachutist pulls it (7)
8 Drain totally (7)
9 Common British bird (4,3)
10 Set aside or book (7)
11 Place for books (5)
13 Nonsense (flower bird) (5)
16 Wages in container (3,5)
18 Dragonfly larva (5)
21 One of the Five Towns (7)
22 Shrub (with bark?) (7)
23 Copying device (7)
24 Inmosses (7)

Down

1 Fictorial pun (5)
2 Affectedly modest person (5)
3 Rusty (3,2,8)
4 Superfluous (2,4)
5 TV programme (with stars) (3,3,2,5)
6 Paper size (5)
7 Stripe of another colour (5)
12 Dance with hoop (4)
14 Potato or silicon? (4)
15 Refinement (5)
16 Over there (5)

17 Set alight (5)
19 American deer (5)
20 Living barrier (5)

Solution No. 8284

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The Guardian

the week



I say yes, you say no

When Leah Betts died after taking Ecstasy there was a huge panic. Across Britain, terrified parents still think they can stop their children dancing to Ecstasy's tune. They will fail, argues, **Tom Hodgkinson**, and teenagers could tell them why

JUST over a year ago Leah Betts took her first Ecstasy pill. She went into a coma and died. Headline writers had a field day. Sentimental, heart-string tugging headlines, designed to prey on the worries of ignorant, frightened parents, exploded into living rooms. "It could be your child", warned the Daily Mail. "Poisoned: Spiked Ecstasy tablet puts birthday girl, 18, into coma," announced the Daily Mirror. "Leah's Last Words: She named Ecstasy pill pusher then pleaded 'Help me mum, help me'", reported Today. All the papers used a picture of a helpless, innocent-looking Leah in a hospital bed, tubes sticking out of her nose, an image that would move even the most hard-hearted dance fan would.

Leah's father Paul Betts, a retired policeman, and her step-mother, Jan, started a campaign against the drug, which, statistically, has less chance of killing you than a peanut. A poster campaign was launched, featuring a photo of Leah alongside a nastily sarcastic "sorted" and the words: "Just one Ecstasy tablet took Leah Betts." The campaign may have comforted Leah's family and other worried parents may have felt that while the problem might not have been "sorted", it was being tackled. But what did the pill poppers make of it all? In Brighton, which has a thriving dance scene, the anti-Ecstasy posters were being defaced by local apologists for dance culture as quickly as they appeared on walls. The anarchist band Chumbawamba responded with a poster that read "Distorted", claiming that you are far more likely to die from eating a toy leaf than taking Ecstasy. Even the case of Leah Betts turned out to be less simple than the newspapers had told us. Leah didn't quite fit the facts, as presented by the tabloids, which wanted a simple black and white story of innocent girl as victim of evil drug pusher. According to Nicholas Saunders, the author of two meticulously researched books on Ecstasy, it was not Leah's first pill. She had had at least four before she died.

At the time Paul Betts said that whoever it was who had given Leah her B was practically a murderer, and he vowed to find the "killer". Then it turned out that the person who gave her the drug was already known to her, says Saunders, "and there was no question of charges." It also emerged that it was not the Ecstasy that killed Leah. She in fact died from liver failure after drinking too much water as she knew that Ecstasy has a dehydrating effect. Why did the Leah Betts affair receive so much publicity? Other Ecstasy-related deaths (most estimates put the total at around 60 over the last 10 years) merit a few paragraphs. It is probably because it was the only Ecstasy-related death where a picture was released of someone who was actually in the process of dying, and was thus an effective weapon in the war between those who just say "no" against those who just say "yes". The Betts parents undertook a nation-wide tour, going into schools and putting on shows trying to warn sophisticates page 14

NATIONAL SAVINGS
Investment Ideas

HELPING YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

THIS CHRISTMAS I WANT TO BUY something special for my nephew that'll last longer than Boxing Day. Any ideas?

Mare Stenson
Mum

SANDRA DILWORTH
National Savings

"Yes, National Savings Children's Bonus Bonds are the ideal Christmas gift for any child under 16 - and can be held until he or she is 21. They offer an excellent fixed rate of 6.75%pa over the first 5 years and have the added attraction of being completely tax-free. So this year give a present that will keep on growing for Christmases to come.

To help ensure the Bonds are received before Christmas, please post your application no later than 2 December using the coupon in **Jobs and Money**. Or for a full guide to our Children's Bonus Bonds, freecall 0500 300 000, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

NATIONAL SAVINGS
Unique Investment Opportunities from HM Treasury

BB1GD6

the week that was

Them on them

The global view

Now that the horrific magnitude of Tuesday evening's mid-air collision has finally sunk in, the authorities have fallen back on games which they are familiar with: obfuscation and passing the buck.

Officials at the Yapan Waropra regency Office of the Ministry of Social Services are investigating

reports that an isolated tribe of people with tails live in the regency's hinterland. "We have received information about them from people living near the tribe," said a spokesman for the ministry.

Speech is like dynamite. It is dangerous only if placed in a small space and put under strong external pressure. The speech of an immature youth attracts only a few people but jail can make a hero of him.

Us on us

The British view

Oasis's Liam Gallagher is in trouble again, this time for suspected possession of cocaine. While the loutish behaviour of the millionaire from a council estate in Burnage is unacceptable, we believe it is to be pitied.

If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face - for ever. This was from George Orwell's 1984 but could equally apply to Helmut Kohl's 1997.

beginnings of a single currency. And once he's done that, all the rest of the trappings that are needed to create a single European super-state will rapidly fall into place.

Of course we all want Gascoigne to become a more mature, responsible person. But if he is to play for England, it will do no one any good if he is so frightened to put a foot out of place that he plays in a strait-jacket.



THEME OF THE WEEK THE PARANORMAL

If the eternal debate over the fundamentals of existence were a football match, the score at the end of this week would be something like, Paranormal 4, Rationality 2.

Murphy, who went on to spend eight years and 21 million searching the wrong area. The report appeared under the heading 'Dr Geller visualised as historic sub is found', and the same edition carried the extraordinary story of the Dean of Lincoln demanding that the city's cathedral be explored.

least, as he prepared for his steadily anti-paranormal Dimbleby lecture, which struck a blow for rationalism in a week when there seemingly he could not stand round every corner.

programme having to agree with a churchman, the Bishop of Rochester, Michael Nazir-Ali, who had been attacking astrology in favour of his own brand of superstition - religion.

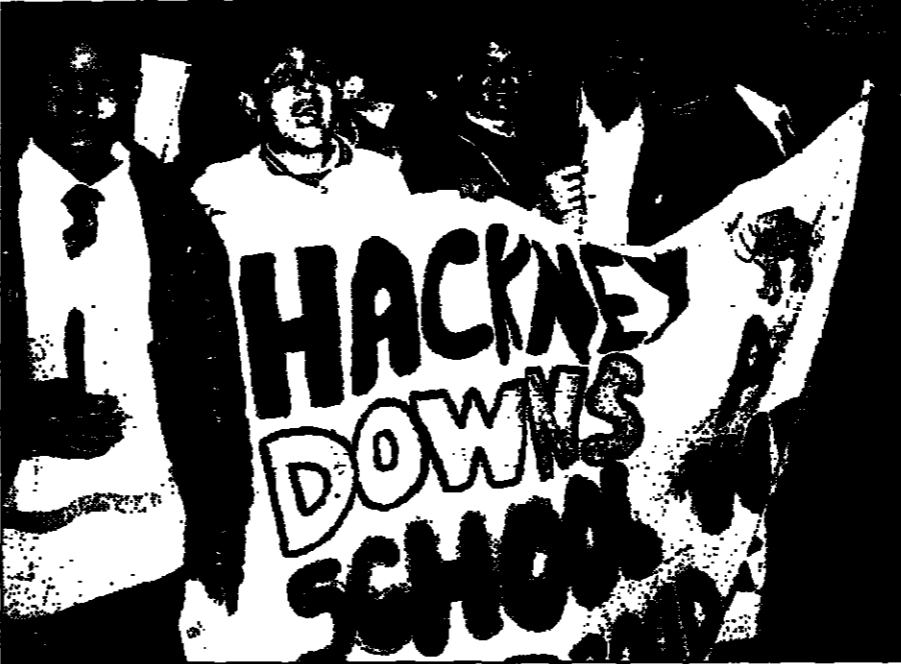
Hard lessons of schools caught in the spotlight

This week last year November 15 1995

ONE year after the North East London Education Association announced its decision to close the troubled Hackney Downs school, others have taken over its mantle of worst school in the country.

several unfortunate factors occur at the same time, the school needs help. At a time like this, a school cannot function properly without the support of its local authority.

was in their best interest. We made teachers and parents aware that if a school descends below a certain level the government will intervene. Hackney Downs was short-changing pupils and although no one ever wants to close a school, it is better than letting it continue delivering a poor standard of education.



School's out... pupils protest, but do their views ever matter? male underachievement in inner city schools is too readily glossed over. Mark Lushington, of the Hackney Teachers Association, responsible for the campaign to save Hackney Downs, agrees: "To purvey somewhere as the school from hell, or someone as the pupil from hell is disgraceful and misleading to parents."

I say yes, you say no

page 13 cited 15-year-olds of the dangers of the drug. They appeared on TV talk shows, basically taking the line "we want people to be given the information to make an informed choice, and the choice should be 'no'".



Leah Betts, her father, Paul, and stepmother, Jan... a tragic death, followed by a campaign that is doomed to fail? subject. Information on the drug forced its way to the public arena. "And it did highlight the fact that there is a small chance of getting a bad reaction from Ecstasy. Some parents called drugs agencies, and were assured that their child probably did not have a problem," says Wright.

21 per cent increase on 1994, and which compares with zero 10 years ago. But some clubbers, he reports, are saying that it is on the way out. He concludes that the only factor "that could seriously dent the drug's popularity is changing pop cultural fashions".

Ecstasy culture has also spawned a criminal class, which is making money from the E generation. But there is surprisingly little hostility to dealers on the scene although most people would prefer a situation where they were not criminalised for taking an informed decision on their choice of intoxicant.

And what else has happened in a year? While a year ago, when it seemed as if every newspaper was running the headline "The agony of Ecstasy" at least once a week, in recent weeks they have been full of stories on "swinging London", "cool Britannia". Surely the two cultures cannot be unrelated?

people in the sixties to look around them in new ways, and therefore create appropriate music and art for the times, so it is with Ecstasy. Its use has stimulated a creative, entrepreneurial generation who are doing things despite an unhelpful welfare state system and a plethora of restrictive, prohibitive laws which seek to limit their freedoms.

- 1. Prince Andrew, rumours about whose sexuality were scooped by Sarah Ferguson on a US chat show.
2. (b) Sarah Ferguson
3. (a) BBC chairman Christopher Bland, who announced a new code of practice aimed at curbing sleaze on TV.
4. The male ladybird, which according to Dr Michael Majors of Cambridge University, is a "sex-crazed carnival".
5. ITV, which ditched the show in mid-series because of sinking ratings.
6. Magnus Magnusson, quiz master on Mastermind, which has been dented by the BBC after 25 years.
7. Prince Charles.
8. Liam Gallagher, who appeared at Marylebone police station on suspicion of possessing cocaine but failed to show up at Ally Pally to collect his MTV award.
9. Liam Gallagher, whose New Man qualities were praised by Patsy Kensit.
10. Frank Sinatra.
11. (d) The RAC, a spokesman for whom said, "It sounds like the horrific scenes in the film could well have the effect of making people drive safer".
12. Faine Spencer, whose three-year marriage to Count Jean-Francois de Chamberlain ended in divorce.
13. Lord's End, "my mother lives in Helston and they felt it was well. A bit of plaster came off the wall," reported one distressed resident.
14. The Taboo Samba-owning Mr Parker couldn't afford a personalised number plate, so changed his name to match the car instead.
15. The question was, What is the Hubble Constant? The Constant, which measures the ratio between the speed at which galaxies recede and their distance from us, is the key question in cosmology.

HAVE YOU BEEN PAYING ATTENTION?

- 1. "There is absolutely no chance he can be gay. It is categorically not true." Who was the heterosexual?
(a) Michael Jackson
(b) George Michael
(c) Liam Gallagher
(d) Prince Andrew
2. Tipped to pile on the pounds as the new face of Weight Watchers. Who?
(a) Madonna
(b) Sarah Ferguson
(c) Caprice Bourret
(d) Iva Hertzoga
3. Who didn't want gratuitous sex before 9pm?
(a) Madonna
(b) Sarah Ferguson
(c) Christopher Bland
(d) Christopher Rebin
4. "Enjoys multiple orgasms - three of them, one after the other and each lasting about one and a half hours." Whose sex life?
5. Knockers 1, Pamela Anderson 0. Who beached Baywatch?
6. "I've started so now I'm finished." Who?
7. Mad or normal? Who is under the hat?
8. He made it to Marylebone police station but not to Ally Pally. Who?
9. "He's been so supportive during all this, really sweet to me." Who was the caring partner?
(a) Paul Gascoigne
(b) Liam Gallagher
(c) Peter Hook
(d) Matt Bowers
10. "My doctor recommended that I go home. Besides, Mike Tyson needed my room." Who beat the obtusist?
11. Who gave the green light to David Cronenberg's controversial film Crash?
(a) Michael Winter
(b) James Forman
(c) The Daily Telegraph
(d) The RAC
12. Out for the Count? But not any more. Who?
(a) Nigel Barn
(b) Mike Tyson
(c) Evander Holyfield
(d) Elaine Spencer
13. It measured 3.8 on the Richter Scale. But when did the earthquake strike?
14. Mr Dave Parker changed his name to Mr C 539 FUG. Why?
15. British scientists awarded 42; American astrophysicists said 65. But what was the question?
Answers, bottom left of this page

سكيا من الالمان

Sir Nicholas Scott, MP for Chelsea, is on trial by his local association for the second time in a year

A career in the balance

THE JOANNA COLES INTERVIEW

SIR NICHOLAS SCOTT is a man who has disappointed life as much as life has disappointed him. You can see it in his pouchy face; his eyelids droop as if they can barely be bothered to stay open. At 63, his voice is now a time-stained drawl, as if his lips can barely summon up the energy to form themselves into words. Even his handshake is bored. "Hello there," he murmurs, padding languidly across the foyer of Norman Shaw North, the House of Commons overflow, in which he has his office.

Probably not for much longer. In two weeks' time, his 30-year career at Westminster will be on trial again. This time last year, Chelsea Conservatives were discussing the incident in which his Volvo hit another Volvo, trapping a three-year-old French child in his pram. Scott was said to have fled the scene.

According to the tabloids, it was not an edifying tale, but after hearing his side of it, the Chelsea Conservative Association agreed to give him a second chance. This time round, after an initial vote of no confidence, they will be discussing his collision with a Bournemouth pavement at the Tory Party Conference. "Slumped Drunk in the Street," yelled the Daily Mirror front page.

Ensclosed in his cosy office on the third floor, I ask Scott what happens to him when he drinks. "I don't get drunk!" he protests crossly, sounding like a boastful teenager. "I don't get drunk! For the last couple of years, my intake of alcohol has been absolutely minimal! I think I've reached the point where I'll just stop it altogether, just as well, be absolutely teetotal." And he makes a jubilant little harrumphing noise.

It was during his six-year ministerial stint in Northern Ireland that he got into the alcohol habit. "Business was often conducted over a glass of whisky, or two. And really, I suppose that habit persisted when we came back. But my wife and I discussed it and really for the last couple of years, I've drunk hardly at all.

In which case, he must consider himself the luckiest man in Britain. "The incident last year [with the pram] well, I was one glass over the limit! One glass over the limit! And this year?" "At Bournemouth, at the Irish Embassy party I had two glasses of wine, which is well under any limit! But at that point I was taking these painkillers as a result of a fall and they can cause vertigo and dizziness!"

They also caused him to sleep straight through his own constituency drinks party — even the deputy chairman hammering on his hotel door failed to rouse him. Didn't he realise strong painkillers and alcohol don't mix? "I came out of the party having had ... well, they offered me whisky and I turned that down! I don't drink spirits at all but I thought a couple of glasses of white wine wouldn't go amiss. I came out into the open, I fell and had a dizzy spell."

I try again. Didn't he realise alcohol and painkillers don't mix? "It never occurred to me! People say 'Oh, everyone knows that!' But I've never been ill!"

At this point, the door nudges open and in trots Patricia Sill-Johnson, Scott's charming secretary, who has been with him since the seventies. Pretty in a navy suit, she was his passenger on the night of the car accident. "Cup of coffee?" she asks. I say I'd prefer tea. "I think we've run out," interrupts Sir Nicholas, "because I normally drink tea and I haven't got one!"

"I could always scrounge one," laughs Patricia in her gentle but distinctly Tory voice, and I try to imagine her at the scene of the accident, allegedly shrieking "Do you know who I am? French scum, French scum!"

"Do you want a coffee?" she asks lovingly. "Yes," says Sir Nicholas nicely. "Black please. Now, where were we?"



Scott ... 'I fell and had a dizzy spell.' Didn't he realise alcohol and painkillers don't mix? 'It never occurred to me!'

PHOTOGRAPH: EAMONN MCGABE

We were on the subject of his doctor, to whose house Scott retreated after the Volvo. "As it happens, he lives about 75 yards away from the incident and I told people at the scene: 'I'm going down the road, if anyone wants to see me or talk to me, you know the address — send them down to me!'"

Send them down to me. This phrase is delivered in such an imperious, arrogant, patrician tone, I want to lean across the desk and throttle him. Send them down to you, but you'd just backed another car into a child. "All this business about the child, the child wasn't injured! They took him to accident and emergency at Chelsea and Westminster; they found no problems whatsoever. It turned out I was one glass over the limit! As soon as someone said there's a child been hurt, I went down to speak to the parents. The child was crying. As I got there, I was told by someone who happened to be walking past and turned out to be a paediatrician: 'I've already inspected the child, and there's nothing wrong with him!'"

"Excuse me," says Patricia, coming in and brandishing a triumphant cup. "Your tea-bag, Earl Grey?" "Did I get any coffee?" grumbles Scott. "If I'd known you were going to find an Earl

'I don't get drunk! For the last couple of years, my intake of alcohol has been absolutely minimal!'

Grey tea-bag, I would have tea myself.

Which way does he think his association will vote? "I have no idea," he strugs, and for a brief moment he looks so weary I wonder if he's past carting. "I've looked after the constituency very well. People think of Chelsea as Lowndes Square, well there's World's End with social issues and problems, Earl's Court which changes very fast."

What's the percentage of unemployed people? "Oh I'd have to look it up to give you the ... the ... the exact figure," he says.

"It's about 12 per cent, I think," chirrups Patricia helpfully. "About 12, is it?" he says, sounding rather surprised. "London is booming at the moment. If you look at Walton Street and Beauchamp Place, well two years ago, there were quite a lot of To Let signs up in both — not a bad barometer for the constituency. Well, I was talking to someone on the phone the other day and they said: 'It's come right down, you know. People really are taking up tenancies in those two areas!'"

I feel like saying: "Fancy that." But instead I ask what he'll do if he is deselected? "I don't know what I shall do," he says irritably. "Well how would he earn a living? 'I've got lots of things to do, I'm involved in various charitable

foundations. I'm a consultant to the Bank of Ireland." Does he understand why some people think he should go? "Yes. But move away from the incident, which I think most rational people would not think was a great disaster. The fact is that the uniting of Kensington and Chelsea, because of boundary changes, has left a degree of resentment in Kensington. They feel they're the junior partner, taken over by a richer and stronger Conservative association."

How petty, I say. "You may think that," he replies wryly. "Let's say I couldn't possibly comment." But it must be infuriating to feel that after so many years he may be forced out because of inter-party squabbles.

I think we have 18 parliamentary candidates within the constituency and there are a certain number of ambitious young men who might have some sort of interest in all this."

Unable to bear it any longer, Patricia, who has been hovering, suddenly bursts out excitedly: "I might add that in my experience all Conservative associations have always had things simmering under the surface. If you get a united local association, it's not real!" Flushed by this sudden outbreak, she smiles apologetically and backs out of the room.

In 1974, Time magazine fingered Scott as a potential world leader, so what went wrong? He never even made the Cabinet and two years ago, his own daughter, Victoria, a campaigner for disabled rights, derided him publicly, calling him underhand and a liar after he scuttled a private member's Disabled Persons Bill. "Politics is a rough old trade," he smiles grimly. "You don't go into politics thinking everyone's going to be nice to you all the time."

So why stay? He's had a safe seat and two junior ministerial posts, what can he left for him? "It sounds pompous but I want to show new people round, show them how it's done. I was very conscious of people holding my hand and telling me what not to do."

But new MPs may not want him to hold their hand. Frankly, they may laugh at him and think he's out of control? "I think your colleagues in the press had a ball," he says angrily. "Uh-oh, here we go. 'Most of the reports were grossly unfair to me. It's not pleasant to read that stuff, or for your family and friends. Our press is pretty awful.'"

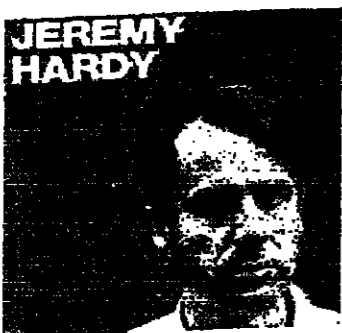
I say that he doesn't seem to display much remorse or embarrassment about either incident. "I don't feel pleased," he shrugs. "I would much prefer it hadn't happened." No doubt, being forced to

stand for re-selection is inconvenient. But he doesn't seem particularly well, ashamed. "I'm sad because of the hurt that happened to family but I'm not going to go into some deep purgatory. Perhaps because of the way your profession behaved, I would have had a totally different approach if it had been reported fairly." Did he complain about the way it was reported? "No." Why hasn't he complained to the Press Complaints Commission? "I should have done."

There is another thing which is puzzling about Sir Nicholas. His father was a policeman yet his own manner is impeccably grand. How come? "No, no, not my wife's family's quite grand, but not mine!"

Before I go, we descend into the foyer to take his photograph and Glenda Jackson saunters past humming. Scott tries to catch her eye but she keeps on going and I'm reminded that although Tory colleagues talk warmly of Scott, there is one word which keeps cropping up, Vanity.

Is he vain? He raises an eyebrow. "I can't think of anything less appropriate, not in the least! I'm a relaxed person who gets on with life. Not in the least! Doesn't even cross my mind. I try to stay fit, bit of golf and tennis. I have a batting average of 27 this season!"



How to avoid tears before bedtime

WAS going to say that no one likes to be told how to bring up children. But some people own books telling them how to do everything, from parenting to lofi-conversion. From birth onwards, books give advice in minute detail as to every aspect of baby-care.

Parents who bottle-feed are denounced for rearing an idiot with no immune system. Men who take an active role in caring for babies are depicted as ugly and bearded, and really only there to play the guitar. Most men are expected to go back to work the second the cord is cut, having arranged for their own mother to come and stay in order to criticise her daughter-in-law as much as possible.

Even in modern society, the extended family is a major source of support and advice for new parents. "You need to super-glue his little bottom to the potty. My Colin was toilet-trained at six weeks."

Once the child is a toddler, the book advice is mostly a list of ill-

nesses. Then there's a bit about bed-wetting and a short concluding chapter entitled "The Rest of Your Child's Life".

Parents are then pretty much on their own as far as secular child-care books are concerned, although I predict a complete reversal of this in the coming year. The whole emphasis of the literature will be on psychology, and the baby-care will be thrown out with the bath water. The thing troubling all parents will be whether we are rearing a nation of squeegee-merchants. Enter New Labour.

Jack Straw is a seasoned politician. Doubtless he is fuming that his call for a national debate about bedtimes has been taken out of context, but he must know that if a politician says something that is even more stupid than the rest of what he says, it will be taken out of context. He's old enough to have learned that however many words a politician speaks or writes, the odd phrase will haunt him forever.

If someone produces a 1,000-page document on homelessness, detailing all sorts of innovative proposals to tackle the problem, the words "Let's have a cull" will be the one everyone notices. Likewise, if a politician uses words which have an echo of corruption, malpractice or disloyalty, they will be taken out of context. If a Tory rebel says, "The Prime Minister's useless and I don't support him," the exact context of the phrase will recede from public view. If a minister writes down some ideas, one of which is, "We could rig the election," no one will care very much what the preceding or following sentences were.

So, Mr Straw has opened a healthy debate about whether he is barteringly clueless or simply weird. He is clearly one of the party's loony right who are more concerned with pushing their own extreme ideas than winning elections. But does he not realise that he is making himself and his party a laughing stock? Does he now

know that he appears to exhibit all the signs of paranoia? Did he watch the Caine Mutiny and think that Captain Queeg was right?

Men who take an active role in caring for babies are depicted as ugly and bearded, and really only there to play the guitar

about the strawberries? Labour are absolutely right to point out that Tory policies foster crime. They are right to point out that people work too hard and don't spend enough time with their families. And they are right to point out that most of us have absolutely no idea how to bring up children.

Jack Straw's parents, for example sent him to boarding school. But considering the dearth of help and support, most parents do remarkably well. It would be very helpful if there were groups we could go to for help, advice and discussion, although given that the primary problem for most parents is that they are exhausted and broke, such groups would probably be populated only by the comfortable and bored.

The implication of Straw's pronouncements is not that help should be on offer to everyone, with no stigma attached, but that parents who may be struggling should be coaxed or bullied into remedial parenting tuition.

We already have health visitors and social workers who have the power to intervene in families, and get an enormous amount of stick as a result, sometimes deservedly, sometimes not. Undoubtedly, they are in a terrible position, faced with an overwhelming consensus that people must be

allowed to do what they like to their own children.

The traditional family is such a sacred, self-enclosed unit in so many minds, that the idea that children are not the property of their parents is still taking off. The idea that they are not the property of their parents' landlords or employers is only a century old. So, yes, the state has a role to play in helping children by helping their parents. But I question whether a panic-stricken belief that the world's gone mad and that it's the parent's fault is the best position from which to advance ideas about society's collective responsibility for children.

I somehow doubt that a man who is frightened of men with rags touching his windscreen is the right man to advance any ideas. But let us take a progressive view of Jack Straw and say that there's no such thing as a bad Shadow Home Secretary — he's just over-tired and cranky, and he's showing off.



Revenge, Fergie and those long Icelandic nights

SUNDAY: The writer Derek Tangye died last month, and a friend who knew him described a new phenomenon: famous people getting posthumous revenge on their would-be biographers... especially those who want a spot of rumpy-pumpy to help sales.

MONDAY: Luckily we still have Fergie's autobiography. Like a lot of obsessives, she is good at beating her breast for her sins, and equally good at excusing them.

TUESDAY: The Europeans have found a way round our Social Chapter Opt-Out, and the Government is furious. Some of us are old enough to remember a time when the rightwing press described British workers as idle good-for-nothings compared to the Stakhanovites of the continent.

I had heard in Japan that the Imperial Household rules the Emperor, but hadn't realised something similar happens here

standard of living is now why behind the rest of Europe. WEDNESDAY: At a book reading, I sat next to Jack Hedley, in his day one of the most popular actors on TV.

THURSDAY: It's sad that Mastermind is ending, though I don't suppose Magnus Magnusson is too sorry, since he would have thought of a historian rather than a TV quiz show host.

FRIDAY: The Libbys are involved in a deal for contracts controversy. But anyone except the Libbys themselves believe that as they swept local authorities all over the country, that in some magical way, the same kind of two-party sleaze wouldn't follow?

SMALLWEED

AM often asked: why do you keep complaining about the employment of words like 'blessed'?

FRIDAY: The Libbys are involved in a deal for contracts controversy. But anyone except the Libbys themselves believe that as they swept local authorities all over the country, that in some magical way, the same kind of two-party sleaze wouldn't follow?

Love of both kinds

HEAD TO HEAD

As gay Christians flock to Southwark Cathedral for a service today, Bishop Derek Rawcliffe, sacked for blessing a gay 'wedding', and Lance Pierson, a married writer, lock horns over homosexuality and the Church

Dear Derek,

DO NOT AGREE that same-sex genital acts are legitimate for Christians. But I welcome this chance to try to understand your view. Here's what most concerns me: aren't we in danger of losing more than we gain if we assume that (a) gay people are bound to stay gay, and (b) we are free to change the Church's historic teaching on homosexuality?

woman has devoted herself to me for the rest of her life, and I to her and we have a girl and a boy who fill us with hope and joy. I don't suggest anyone should marry before they're ready to embrace it.

Your brother in God's family, Lance

Dear Lance,

THANK YOU for your letter. I'll deal with one point: can gay people do something to change their sexuality at will? Sexuality is usually thought of as a spectrum with each of us somewhere on the scale.



Lance Pierson, left, and Bishop Derek Rawcliffe

bisexuality. I agree some do find they have moved some distance along the spectrum during their lives, but this is not something they determined to do; they discovered it had happened. What I'm getting at is that we do not choose to be gay or straight. And we cannot choose to change it.

that is how God has made us. We don't need healing, because we are not sick.

Your brother in Christ, Derek Rawcliffe

Dear Derek,

THANKS — I'm glad your marriage was happy. But I'd already agreed this was no escape route. I also agree with the sexuality aren't sick. In my view, the route most people take to heterosexual living and loving gets blocked in our case, often by a failed relationship with our same-sex parent.

I don't see how I can ignore or change this and still call myself a Christian... In Christ, Lance

Dear Lance,

ILL START with your idea that homosexuality is caused by an early 'faded relationship with our same-sex parent'. I note you say often, but even so this doesn't account for straight people who have had bad relations with their same-sex parent nor gay people who have had good relations with that parent.

It would take a long letter to deal with Paul, but he seems to think disordered, idolatrous mankind (ie all of us) deliberately chose to 'become homosexual, which goes against our consciousness of discovering, not choosing, our sexuality. And I do not think he has in mind a committed, loving and permanent relationship.

As far as being set free, I believe the ex-gay movement is very unsuccessful in changing the orientation of those who come for help.

Yours in Christ, Derek

Dear Lance,

I SAID often because I accept there are many more cases than I know of. But in those I have met, a damaged relationship with the same sex parent has been an important — if not the key — factor.

I agree that in Romans, Paul talks of deliberate homosexual perversion. But I was quoting Corinthians, where he speaks simply of any people who have gay sex: 'They will not inherit God's kingdom.' In another letter he calls their actions opposed to the gospel, ie 'un-Christian'. He doesn't say, 'except, of course, if they're lesbian, though I dare say he could have.

So imagine my dismay at Southwark Cathedral playing host today to a celebration of what looks to me like turning a deaf ear to God. Can you reassure me?

In Christ, Lance

Dear Lance,

OUR differences have boiled down to the interpretation of two of those words in the Bible, and it's got very scholarly! You say that when Paul uses three Greek words in a list of things 'opposed to the gospel, ie un-Christian', he is talking about all gay sex. But is he? Of those three words, two are rare and there's no certainty among scholars as to their precise meaning.

In 1 Corinthians Paul uses one of those words again with another word meaning 'soft', 'effeminate'. It could be translated 'rent-boys and those who lie with them', again not really what we're talking about.

Does the Bible really outlaw all gay sex? You admit Paul thought gay people had deliberately chosen their 'perversion', whereas it is now agreed that we do not choose to be gay but discover we are. And those other passages can, as I said above, bear another interpretation than yours.

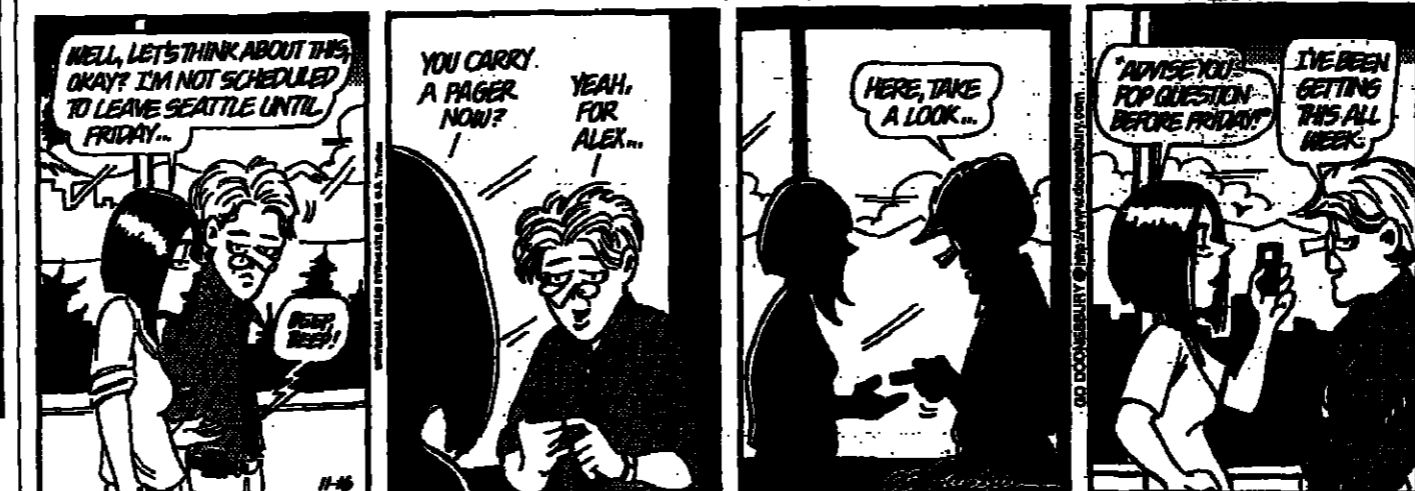
I see the Southwark service as a recognition of a group marginalised by society and, sadly, by the Church, whom Jesus would want to affirm, and as a thanksgiving for the ministry of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement over the past 20 years, enabling this group to regain the self-worth which many had lost through society's attitude and to thank God for how he has made them.

I shall be there. You will be welcome too. Yours in Christ, Derek

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Doonesbury



THREE QUESTIONS have bugged me all week. (1) Why, as revealed on the 'Times' social page, is Lord Rees-Mogg, who lives in Somerset and the 18th century, president of the Thorney Island Society? Thorney Island, on my map, is in Chichester Harbour, near Hayling. What is Mogg's connection with that? An older gazetteer claims there's a Thorney Island under Westminster near the point where Watling Street joins the Thames. Since Mogg is a peer, that possibly makes better sense. But if so, do the Thorney Island Society meet under water, clad in their diving suits, with Debussy's 'Cathédrale Englaise' playing softly in the background?

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Keeping an eye on the blips... an air traffic controller at London's Heathrow. For a stress-free journey, it is not advisable to dwell on just how chaotic the chaotic moments can be

'These are not lives here; they are just dots'

The New Delhi air crash highlights the lot of air traffic controllers. Gary Younge reports

AIR TRAFFIC controllers like to compare themselves to futures dealers. Cuddling up to a dozen planes to land safely at any one time, they sit in front of computer screens, fuelled by fast food, making snap decisions that affect the lives of millions of people around the world. Their skill is to predict what will happen, avoid potential calamities and exploit possible opportunities while trying to keep their heads, their hair and a modicum of poise.

But in aviation, as in finance, for all the reliable workers beavering away there will always be a rogue trader — a Nick Leeson of the skies who takes on too much, is in too deep and refuses to pull the emergency cord until it is too late, so bringing the whole house crashing down.

is the safest form of transport. At present, the chances of your plane crashing is little more than three in a million. But while the statistics back up this argument convincingly, the headlines do not. After a period of relatively infrequent air disasters the number of incidents in the last year has leapt dramatically. Thursday's near collision between a British Airways Boeing 767 and an Air UK Fokker 100 over south-east Scotland follows the crash between a Saudi Jumbo jet and a Kazakh airliner earlier this week. The accident, in which all 356 passengers and crew were killed, made headlines around the world.

Like the controller who got so frustrated by the number of blips on his screen, representing planes waiting to land, that he took his cursor and started eliminating them one by one.

But when a jet belonging to the bucket-ride airline ValuJet, plunged into the Florida Everglades leaving 110 dead, ValuJet was grounded by the Federal Aviation Authority because of its poor safety record. When it took to the

air again at the end of September one American commentator quipped that a passenger without an identity card could always present his dental records. A Wall Street Journal survey predicted that at current rates there would be one ValuJet-type disaster every month within a decade.

be. That way you won't have to concern yourself that an air traffic controller might be, in air traffic control speak, "going down the pipes" — lapsing in concentration and losing track of what is happening on the radar screen; about to "eat a deal" — make a mistake which is reported to the Federal Aviation Authority; or "fishing for

the trouble is that ATCs shifts have got far harder recently and promise to get even harder. "Thanks to under-investment in technology, under-staffing and a massive increase in workload, the majority are performing in what amounts to sweatshop conditions. The US is now using vacuum-tubed computers which have only 1 per cent of the capacity of the power of an ordinary desk-top PC. "We are using second world war radar screens and IBM computers from the 1960s," says US controller Teddi-Jann Casey.

circling aircraft in the skies waiting to land and growing queues of planes on the tarmac waiting to take off. For airport controllers, more stacks means more blips on the screen which means more stress.

Morevoer, it is not uncommon for radar screens to go completely blank for hours — even days — at a time and for the controllers to look out for air traffic by peering through binoculars. "We're de-

pending on finding the planes right out of the window, which is kind of a crazy way to conduct business. This is critical," says one controller in Florida, where the radar had not been fixed for two days.

colloquial. One American pilot, who was second in the queue to touch down at Gatwick, received the instruction: "pop over". The English controller meant that he should keep circling but the pilot thought he was being told to leave the first plane and land in front.

Going up - by 2010 commercial departures will have grown from 14 to 22 million

The controller must guide the planes in his or her control area — sometimes several at a time — into the airport while ensuring that they remain a safe distance apart. Most of the time, the system functions without incident. But at peak times in busy airports, things can often descend into chaos. "What a fucking system. Send 'em all to the same place and then expect us to fly in is still less dangerous than driving. As one US pilot says: "My insurance company is more bothered about whether I smoke than the fact that I fly. When I'm

looking for the two weeks off, granted if overpowering feedback from his headset causes him to fall a hearing test. The fact is that an air traffic controller's job is just like everybody else's. "You've got to have two mentalities," one controller told the New York Times. "One: these aren't lives here; they are just dots. And two: even as bad as you can mess up, it's a big sky; the planes won't hit. Otherwise the stress is too much. You'd be to have a heart attack. You'd be done."

Then there's congestion. Most forecasts suggest that air travel will grow by little over five per cent a year in the foreseeable future. By 2010 the annual number of commercial airline departures will have grown from 14 million to 22 million.

This means more "stacks" or

what might have happened outside

New Delhi on Tuesday. Indian aviation experts say that pilots from the former Soviet Union have always had problems understanding instructions in English and their cockpit equipment is marked in metric.

Both the US and the UK are currently modernising their control equipment but even that is proving problematic. The US is planning to update its system with \$1 billion-worth of new automated equipment over the next 10 years. It is also considering the introduction of a new "free flight" system, which would allow planes to fly directly from A to B without travelling on specific routes and using a global-positioning system for navigation. Some fear that this could make the skies a more dangerous place, rendering the air traffic controllers at best simply monitoring the traffic and at worst obsolete.

SO I SAID 'WHAT ABOUT ANOTHER 25 YEARS?' AND THEY SAID 'PASS!'

Simon Hattenstone celebrates a less pompous era for the quiz-show

YOU HAVE two minutes on your specialist subject. Dead Culture, starting NOW. What television programmes will be killed off next year after 25 years of soporific monotony?

But while we began to have our doubts about the value of knowledge, we were also bombarded by it. We could barely turn our head without slapping it against a clump of random facts. Flick on the TV and there'd be Blockbusters and Countdown and University Challenge and A Question of Sport and Have I Got News For You? and The Price Is Right and Telly Addicts and Supermarket Sweep. Open a cupboard and a stack of Trivial Pursuit cards fall out. Go down the pub and the general knowledge quiz is digesting more losers' change. Log on to the Internet and

it will spew out facts to infinity. Finish your ice-olly and the naked stick will tell you that Philoosomus was a Syriac prose writer and a champion of Monophysite doctrine. As knowledge was demystified, facts were no longer primarily gleaned from beautiful books. The ultimate fact machine was a computer and computers were ugly and mechanical. We invented a word for people who knew indecent amounts about a subject — anoraks. We saw them for what they were — bores. And we realised there was no more credibility in knowing every fact about the James Joyce canon than knowing the 95 bus timetable from Bury New Rd to the centre of Manchester.

They have great catchphrases, terrific prizes or famously crap prizes, they get the audience screaming and wailing, they have scope for silly moments ("Can I have a 'P' please, Bob?") always got a laugh on Blockbusters in my day), they play post-modern jokes and scorn proper answers. Some even mock the very notion of knowledge, none more cruelly than Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game. If knowledge is simply learning things by rote, why not simply memorise a conveyor-belt jam-packed with hair-dryers and cuddly toys? Today's quiz shows flash their snazzy slogans at us and tell us that they are cheaper and more vicious than any soap opera, and that they're proud of it.

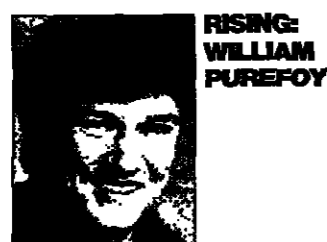
Which leaves us with the haughty, defiantly middle-class, audaciously dull Mastermind. Even University Challenge has a bit of nerd appeal with its sober students trying so hard to be icons of cool rather than swottiness. Only Mastermind wants to believe it is culturally important, an intellectual barometer. So one final question: Which corporation pulled the plug on a cultural relic 25 years too late?

arts



The explorers who discovered the fabulous Chauvet cave paintings are accusing the French government of stealing the credit. But the real issue, says **John Berger** (left), is how these ancient beasts challenge our sense of artistic progress. In an open letter to the artist Marisa Camino, he takes an imaginative journey back through 30,000 years

SHOOTING STARS



RISING: WILLIAM PUREFOY

Up... As head chorister at Christ's Hospital school, William is a treble well into his 17th year. Will his voice ever break?

Up... William goes to Oxford on a choral scholarship, then returns to the Guildhall School of Music. Wins the 1995 NEMS Young Concert Artist Award and records Terror & Magnificence with jazzman John Harle.

And away... This week, at 29, he's getting rave notices for his Endimion in Cavalli's La Calisto. He'll soon tether his outrageously high sounds to an opera by Harle and Elvis Costello.



FALLING: LIZ HURLEY

Going... What makes actress Liz famous to start with? A dress that isn't even stitched together at the sides, and a loveable-fop boyfriend who makes one successful film.

Going... Hugh is caught with a lady of the night. The publicity gives Liz a chance to wheedle her way into a decent acting job. Anyone remember Mad Dogs And Englishmen?

Gene... Now she's a film producer — for Simlan Films (props. H Grant, E Hurley). Can she get herself a respectable job on screen? Er... Deliah in a no-brainer TV movie?

Secrets of the stones

Dear Marisa,

You have painted many creatures and turned over many stones and crouched for hours looking; perhaps you will follow me.

Today I went to the street market in a suburb south of Paris. You can buy everything there, from boots to sea urchins. There's a woman who sells the best paprika I know. There's a fishmonger who shouts out to me whenever he has an unusual fish that he finds beautiful, because he thinks I may buy it in order to draw it. There's a lean man with a beard, who sells honey and wine. Recently he has taken to writing poetry and he hands out photocopied copies of his poems to his regular clients, himself looking even more surprised than they do.

One of the poems Alain handed me this morning went like this: *Who put this triangle in my hand? This triangle born of moonlight Went through me without touching me.*

Making the noise of a dragonfly Deep in the rock at night.

After I read it, I wanted to talk to you about the first painted animals. What I want to say is obviously something that everybody who has looked at paleolithic cave paintings must feel, but which is never (or seldom) said clearly. Maybe the difficulty is one of vocabulary; maybe we have to find new references.

The beginnings of art are being continually pushed back in time. Sculpted rocks just discovered at Kumburra in Australia may date back 75,000 years. The paintings of horses, rhinoceroses, ibex, mammoths, lions, bears, bison, panthers, reindeer, aurochs and an owl found in 1994 in the Chauvet cave in the French Ardèche are probably 30,000 years old. The time separating us from these artists is at least 12 times longer than the time separating us from the pre-Socratic philosophers.

What makes the age of these works astounding is the sensitivity of perception they reveal. The thrust of an animal's neck or the set of its mouth or the energy of its haunches were observed and re-created with a nervousness and control comparable to what we find in the works of a Fra Lippo Lippi, a Velazquez or a Brancusi. Apparently art did not begin clumsily. The eyes and hands of the first painters and engravers were as fine as any that came later. There was a grace from the start. This is the mystery, isn't it?

The difference between then and now concerns not finesse but space; the space in which their images exist as images and were imagined. It is here — because the difference is so great — that we have to find a new way of talking. There are, fortunately, superb

photographs of the newly discovered Chauvet paintings. The cave has been closed up and no public visits will be allowed. The animals on the rocks are back in the darkness from which they came and in which they resided for so long.

We have no word for this darkness. It is not night and it is not ignorance. From time to time we all cross this darkness, seeing everything; so much everything that we can distinguish nothing. You know it, Marisa, better than I. It's the interior from which everything came.

One July evening this summer, I went up the highest field, high above the farm, to fetch Louis's cows. During the hay-making season I often do this. By the time the last trailer has been unloaded in the barn, it's getting late and Louis has to deliver the evening milk by a certain hour, and anyway we are tired, so while he prepares the milking machine I go to bring in the herd.

I climbed the track that follows the stream, which never dries up. The path was shady and the air still hot but not heavy. There were no hedges as there had been the previous evening. The path runs like a tunnel under the branches of the trees, and in parts it was muddy. In the mud I left my footprints among the countless footprints of cows. To the right the ground drops

very steeply to the stream. Beech trees and mountain ash prevent it being dangerous; they would stop a beast if it fell there. On the left grow bushes and the odd elder tree. I was walking slowly so I saw a tuft of reddish cow hair caught on the twigs of one of the bushes.

Before I could see them, I began to call. Like this, they might already be at the corner of the field to join me when I appeared. Everyone has their own way of speaking with cows. Louis talks to them as if they were the children he never had: sweetly or furiously, murmuring or swearing. I don't know how I talk to them; but, by now, they know. They recognise the voice without seeing me.

When I arrived they were waiting. I undid the electric wire and cried: "Venez, mes belles, venez." Cows are compliant, yet refuse to be hurried. Cows live slowly — five days to our one. When we beat them, it's invariably out of impatience. Our own. Beaten, they look up with that long-suffering air that is a form (yes, they know it!) of impertinence, because it suggests no five days, but five seconds.

They ambled out of the field and took the path down. Every evening Delphine leads and every evening Hirondeille is the last. Most of the others join the file in the same order, too. The regularity of this somehow suits their patience.

I push against the lame one's rump to get her moving, and I felt her massive warmth, as I did every evening, coming up to my shoulder under my singlet. "Alex," I told her, "Alex, Tulipe," keeping my hand on her haunch, which juttied out like the corner of a table.

In the mud their steps made almost no noise. Cows are very delicate on their feet: they place them like mannequins turning on high-heeled shoes at the end of their to-and-fro. I've even had the idea of training a cow to walk on a tightrope. Across the stream, for instance!

The running sound of the stream was always part of our evening descent, and when it faded the cows heard the toothless spit of the water pouring into the trough by the stable where they would quench their thirst. A cow can drink about 30 litres in two minutes.

Meanwhile, that evening, we were making our slow way down. We were passing the same trees. Each nudged the path in its own way. Charlotte stopped where there was a patch of green grass. I tapped her. She went on. It happened every evening. Across the valley I could see the already mown fields.

Hirondeille was letting her head dip with each step, as a duck does. I rested my arm on her neck and suddenly I saw the evening as from a thousand years away.

Louis's herd walking fastidiously down the path, the stream babbling beside us, the heat subsiding, the trees nudging us, the flies around their eyes, the valley and the pine trees on the far crest, the smell of urine as Delphine pisses, the buzzard hovering over the field called la Plaine Fin, the water pouring into the trough, me, the mud in the tunnel of trees, the immeasurable age of the mountain... suddenly everything there was indivisible, was one. Later each part would fall to pieces at its own rate. Now they were all compacted together. As compact as an acrobat on a tightrope.

"Listening not to me but to the logos, it is wise to agree that all things are one," said Heraclitus, more than 25,000 years after the Chauvet paintings were made.

Only if we remember this unity and the darkness we spoke of can we find our way into the space of those first paintings.

Nothing is framed in them; more important, nothing nests. Because the animals run and are seen in profile (which is essentially the view of a poorly armed hunter seeking a target) they sometimes give the impression that they are going to nest. But look more

carefully: they cross without meeting. This is true, even of the two fighting rhinoceroses.

Their space has absolutely nothing in common with that of a stage. When experts pretend they can see here "the beginnings of perspective", they are falling into a deep, anachronistic trap. Pictorial systems of perspective are architectural and urban, depending upon the window and the door. Non-architectural "perspective" is about coexistence, not about distance.

Deep in the cave, which meant deep in the earth, there was everything. Wind, water, fire, far-away places, the dead, thunder, pain, paths, animals, light, the unborn... they were there in the rock to be called to. The famous imprints of life-size hands (when we look at them we say they are ours) — these hands are there, stencilled in ochre, to touch and mark the everything-present and the ultimate frontier of the space this presence inhabits.

The drawings came, one after another, sometimes to the same spot, with years or perhaps centuries between them, and the fingers of the drawing hand belonging to a different artist.

All the drama that is later art becomes a scene painted on a surface with edges, is compacted here into the apparition that has come through the rock to be seen. The limestone opens for it, lending it a bulge here, a hollow there, a deep scratch, an overhanging lip, a receding flank.

When an apparition came to an artist, it came almost invisibly, trailing a distant, unrecognisable smell, and he or she found it and traced what it nudged, the surface, the facing surface, on which it would now stay visible even when it had withdrawn and gone back into the one.

Things happened that later millennia found it hard to understand. A head came without a body. Two heads arrived one behind the other. A single hind leg chose its body, which already had four legs. Six antlers settled on a single skull.

It doesn't matter what size we are when we nudge the surface. We may be gigantic or small; all that matters is how far we have come through the rock.

The drama of these first painted creatures is neither to the side nor to the front, but always behind in the rock. From where they came. As we did, too...

The author is a novelist and art critic. Main photograph from Chauvet Cave, Thames and Hudson, £28.

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THE ROYAL OPERA

Hang on to your bobby socks! Here comes... **Amazing Grace**

POOR little girl comes to New York wanting to sing her heart out. Love, money and showbiz machinery stand in her way, but with a smile that big and an even bigger beehive hairdo, you know no one's going to rain on her parade. Beneath the hip trappings, Allison Anders's *Grace Of My Heart*, a more than affectionate tribute to sixties American pop, is an old-fashioned backstage musical.

It's best described as an updating of *Funny Girl* according to the criteria of *Mojo* magazine — not least because its star *Denise* Douglas (ganache herself *Edina*, who becomes streetwise *Denise*) is so much in the *Streisand* mould.

Anders's film, which Scorese executive-produced, is a *romant d'clief*, starting out as a fictionalised biopic of singer Carole King, then taking a detour into *A Star Is Born* territory, as *Denise* hitches up with an adulated surf-pop genius — rugged Matt Dillon an improbable stand-in for the Beach Boys' pudgy Brian Wilson.

It's inevitable when you make a film about stridles pop that things will degenerate en route — hairdos to die for end up with Woodstock rats' nestier snappy two-minute soul operas turn into dippy West Coast me-me meandering. But Anders plays it for fun all the way.

No sooner has *Denise* gone off for three years' sulking in *dirrtd* at a West Coast commune than John Turturro turns up in his ludicrous wig and goatee, as her Phil Spector-like mentor, and whips everyone into party mood. Next thing you know, she's making her solo LP. There's a strong scent of "Let's put on a show right here", but starry-eyed eagerness is the best attitude for capturing the era.

What gives the frivolity its backbone is an adept feminist slant on pop history — in one brisk anecdote, *Denise* writes a perfect, oblique heart-wringer hit for a secretly lesbian singer. She's less successful with the story of white singers learning their tricks from black musicians, who usually didn't get to take their tunes to the bank.

If you can swallow the shamelessly upbeat revisionism, there are some real pleasures to be had here. Foremost is a sublime collection of songs — notably soaring piece of melodrama by *Elvis Costello* and *Burt Bacharach*. No less memorable is *Douglas* herself, all eyes, huge grin, skinny flailing arms and brio, like a jolly, sexy cross between *Streisand*, *Andrey Hepburn* and *Olivia*. *Oyl*, who cares if she didn't do her own singing?

Jonathan Romney

be be city

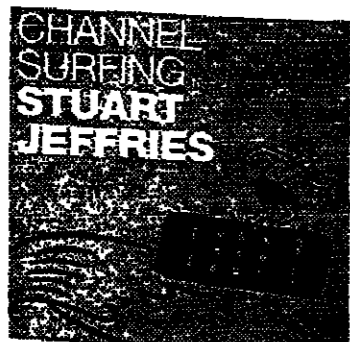
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CHANNEL SURFING
STUART JEFFRIES

Yule be sorry

WHAT little girl's Christmas would be complete without a Bubble Talk Baby? Only £18.75, and doesn't she have darling blue eyes? But here's the best part. You blow bubbles and when they hit her "magic bracelet", she speaks. "This is fun!" she says, or "I love bubbles!" No? How about a pair of elephant-topped, gel-filled massaging insoles at £15.91? That's right, elephant-topped. No? What about a Santa's sleigh on rails? It circles your Christmas tree, headed by a team of plastic reindeers. A seasonal monument to your good taste.

It's reassuring that, despite many hours of watching QVC, the cable shopping channel, I've never seen anything worth buying. Apart, obviously, from the Grandfather Clock Hotel, a timepiece and economy-sized Wendy House. I'd like to buy the whole stock and set about each one with a baseball bat.

The characteristic experience of watching QVC is one of relaxed absorption, followed by total panic. It's an experience the channel cunningly cultivates. Each item is lovingly scrutinised to gentle music — the way that bracelet looks from different camera angles, how it rests like a sack of spanners on the presenter's wrist.

The presenter mentions that the one-third of the stock has been sold in the last 15 minutes. Or that when this item was last offered in September it sold like hot cakes. "There are only 37 QVC shopping days to Christmas!" a voice announces. Buy! Now! The treadmill tarring to monitor your heart

rate! And the Liz Earle Complete Beauty Routine, including a book of tips on youthful skin ("The book is a sort of present from me." Thanks Liz!).

Nigel Ballantyne presented for three hours on Thursday morning, effortlessly enthusing about the insoles, The Space Saver Cardboard Treadmill and the duck that quacked Old McDonald if you punched it. He's a terrific host — enthusiastic, unctuous, chummy to people who phone in.

Everyone is so nice on QVC. Nice to the extent that you feel like washing your hands afterwards. You could be in a posh department store, such is the bogus attentiveness and the hard sell in a velvet glove.

It's different from the seasonal TV ads that purport to minimise the expense but also stymie the joy of Christmas shopping. The screwy logic of one supermarket's pitch: "As Christmas is the time when you'll buy most, you'll want to spend least." Another's self-regarding statement of principle: "Is there anything we don't sell?" "Yes: we don't sell the customer short." Come now, you're too modest. Everybody gets short-changed at Christmas.

But nobody is going to be as short-changed as those who watch the adverts between Gladiators and Baywatch from today until Christmas. The World, the axed youth show, returns as a soft-drink commercial. It's a pernicious trend: like those ads for American beer that show complete with a cod talk

pretence to be entertainment. Unlike QVC, which is overtly about making purchases, but which incidentally entertains those who live to shop, this is an insidious form of broadcasting which attempts to associate pop with the World's apparently transgressive content. There will be a mock lottery in which contestants eat mince pies, one of which contains dog food. It can only boost ITV's reputation for Saturday night quality.

It's produced by F&L 24, the company that made The Big Breakfast and Hotel Babylon. Bring the camera in closer a moment, could you Larry? Look at the workmanship that went into them, the attention to detail, the absolute quality, mate. Barely a millimetre of what went into the gel-filled insole.

WAVE RIDING
ANNE KARPFF

analysis department, they're invariably a hoot. As for the songs, I knew them all. (Perhaps that's a definition of middle-age — when you recognise all the records in a Radio 2 programme.) But why nothing from that later, hipper, talk-singer, Laurie Anderson ("O Superman")?

Flambéed Fergie

THE BBC has borrowed itself another Hollywood star: William Hurt is reading The Shipping News, E Annie Proulx's award-winning Newfoundland novel for The Late Book (Radio 4). It's actually not that hard for the BBC to borrow a Hollywood star — they just love working for a little pay thereby proving their artistic integrity. (British actors, on the other hand, have had it with artistic integrity. They've got it coming out of their ears. They want some cash.)

Hurt's reading has the kind of low-key, mid-acting style that never lets you forget that his speaker is a star. He burlesques you with his intensity and assurance, sighs audibly through some of the words, and sometimes speaks so softly, slowly, and mumbly, that I thought my tranny was out of juice. No British actor would dare downplay so much: though Hurt gets to do other characters too. The Shipping News is essentially narrative, full of elliptical writing, arresting images — the life of an outsider. It makes a distinctive serial.

Martin Kelner is the maestro of novelty songs, the captain of kitsch. Show him a car-boot sale, and he can make a programme from its unsold records. In *Speak To Me* he did talkie records, the lump-in-the-throat stuff that reached the charts in the 1960s and 70s. He called *Deck Of Cards* a "recurring tribute to bad taste", and so are Kelner's programmes: though a little sparring in the cultural

Kelner was followed by *The Jamesons* (Radio 2) in which the husband-and-wife team indulge in the kind of mock bickering that makes bystanders faint from tedium. *Jameson femme* also has a sipping giggle which most count among the most annoying sounds on British radio. Nevertheless, in their interview with Edwina Currie they managed to get her — briefly — out of self-promotion mode and on to politics, where she had dismissive things to say about John Major's attempt to scupper European legislation on the 48-hour week.

Currie was talking politics on a Radio 2 chat show, while BBC News and Current Affairs joined the Fergie-circuit. The Duchess of York was given a long interview with Sue MacGregor on Thursday's *Today* (Radio 4), which was neither more probing nor more revealing than the long interviews with her everywhere else. In a heavily contrived voice, she spoke reasonably about her mistakes. But of one crime she remains unacquitted — her debasement of language. Not only has she appropriated the language of victimology, claiming that her shopping is akin to bulimia — a curious analogy unless she offloaded her purchases soon after she made them — but her repeated references to "My Man" and "The Firm" also mark her out as the Sharon of the Royal Family (at least she didn't say "We're a team"). It was when she declared "I'm standing here for truth" that you knew she'd been on too many American chat shows. Yet America also, it seems, has turned Fergie-worship a reporter on the Chicago Tribune told Wednesday's PM that the Duchess of York was "too far down the food chain" to really excite American interest, and if she moved there all she could expect would be seafood dinners and flambéed desserts alongside the other social climbers. Ouch.

The RSC is right to revive a 16th-century Morality Play — but not like this, says Michael Billington

Everyman for himself



Bath time... the RSC's eccentrically inventive production of *Everyman* PHOTOGRAPH: NEIL LIBBERT

The let-down

HOW do you present religious drama in a secular age? Bill Bryden's answer in both the *Mysteries* and Dennis Potter's *Son Of Man* was to rely on communal memory, folk rock and audience involvement. Kathryn Hunter and Marcello Magni take a different tack in their production of *Everyman* at Stratford's Other Place. They deploy many of the physical techniques of *Theatre de Complicité*, from which they both hail. But their production, though eccentrically inventive, seems at odds with the gravity and purity of this 16th-century Morality Play.

Everyman, as scholars point out, is not a bit like other medieval Moralities. There is no battle between good and evil, no interjection of AP Rossiter's "vices, devils, squibs and jocularities". It is a work of unrelieved earnestness in which God, despairing of human vanity, tells Death to go to *Everyman* and bid him prepare for a mortal pilgrimage. In his final journey of reckoning, *Everyman* is deserted by Fellowship, Kindred, Goods, Beauty, Strength and various allegorical companions. Only Good Deeds accompanies the repentant sinner to the grave and ensures his ascension to Heaven.

Clearly a work like this poses problems for a modern audience. We are not used to dramatised abstractions. We are even less used to the idea of a God who arraigns mankind for "living without dread in worldly prosperity", who talks menacingly of his "sharp rod" and who threatens unrepentant sinners with "everlasting fire". The play is a powerful product of Catholic Europe, and what it says, unequivocally, is that Man can be saved only by his actions — and even then, they'd better be pretty substantial. "And they be small," in the words of the concluding speech, "before God he hath no help at all."

Yet I believe the play can be made to work for a modern audience. It deals with the fear of dying, which is universal. It sees human life as something that has to be accounted for — an idea that haunts drama from *Hamlet* to *Peer Gynt*. It also taps into our residual belief that theatre should be morally improving — witness the modern popularity of *An Inspector Calls* or Hofmannsthal's *Jedermann*, which every summer confronts well-heeled Salzburg Festival-goers with the vanity of riches and the imperative of death. Propaganda has always been a vital part of theatre, and *Everyman*, at its most basic, tells us how to live.

What it needs, however, is moral conviction and imagery that

matches the text, both of which seem to be wanting in the Hunter-Magni production. In a strange preface, Joseph Mydell's naked *Everyman* is given a ritual rub-down in a tin bath before going as best man to Fellowship's wedding. God is a homely figure in white wig and gardening clothes. Death arrives in the tempting shape of Josette Bushell-Mingo in low-cut gown. And when the allegorical Five Wits appear, they turn out to be a ragged-arsed circus troupe doing funny business with ladders.

I have no objection to modern dress. It goes perfectly well with a work that harps on the emptiness of materialism. Bryden's *Mysteries* also showed that you can achieve the luminous in everyday working-clothes. But although they reject medieval iconography, Hunter and Magni never replace it with anything substantial of their own. The allegorical figures simply become clownish, sub-*Complicité* types, with Cousin played as a funny foreigner. Fellowship's bride as a man in drag, and Goods as a seedy Arthur Daley spit. The pervading jokiness fatally reduces the pathos of *Everyman*'s desertion.

Only when the production resorts to basic religious imagery does it touch the heart. The sight of the penitent *Everyman* dragging a heavy stone or nestling in the arms of a beneficent angel is highly affecting; and when Myra MacFadyen's prostrate, hump-backed Good Deeds is raised from the ground by *Everyman*'s scourging, our spirits rise with her. At such moments something momentous — the salvation of the hero's soul — is at stake; at other times we seem to be watching a hectic attempt to lend tonal variety to a work whose very strength lies in its sombre unity.

I can see the problem. We have no recent tradition on which to draw in presenting medieval Morality Plays. We also lack a shared faith or fear of damnation. But theatre is a strange medium in which the conviction of the actors can lead to a willing suspension of disbelief; here, however, the pervasive irony left me only spasmodically carried away by the notion that we shall all confront a day of reckoning.

The RSC is right to revive this rarely seen play. But the challenge facing the company in its Other Place season, where Katie Mitchell goes on to direct the *Mysteries*, is not just to test the dramatic vitality of pre-Shakespearean drama. It is something even deeper: to recapture the spirit of a time when drama made the miraculous manifest and had a direct moral purpose. If theatre doesn't lead us to question the way we live, what is it for?

At The Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon (01789 285623).

Screen reviews the latest film releases every Friday in **The Guardian**

Going to Towns

The triumphs

THE ORIS London Jazz Festival has inspired plenty of heated oratory about where genres begin and end, but has also provided some of the alchemy that turns all the warring elements into gold. Wednesday's performance by British composer Colin Towns's Mask Orchestra (Purcell Room) and Thursday's by a nine-piece two-band combination of Americans John Scofield and Michael Brecker (Festival Hall) are prime examples.

Towns delivered an dangerously ambitious show as anything Loose Tubes might have produced. There's an impatient quality about his music that occasionally makes it seem jittery and unfocused, and he jams in enough ideas for half a dozen performances. But the overall effect is to throw back a curtain on the materials available to contemporary jazz composers, and in the process galvanise improvisors. In one fast, boppist improvised exchange with altoist Peter King the excellent singer Maria Pia del Vito provided one of the unforgettable moments of the festival.

Guitarist John Scofield's first-half performance on Thursday furnished a good many of the others. Since his years with Miles Davis, Scofield has often demonstrated a blend of force and subtlety, of bluesy clout and melodic ambiguity. But if the word preceding his new album, *Quiet*, suggested a performance of uncharacteristic reserve, a 90-minute blitz by a superb new Scofield band was the old mix. And saxophonist Michael Brecker wrapped up the show with the kind of manic impassiveness for which he's famous, with a band as expertly tuned to his needs as Scofield's.

John Fordham
The festival continues until tomorrow.

all you need is...

beautiful thing **leaving las vegas** **the american president** **the usual suspects**

and
a gift from us to you

Spend £25* now and we'll give you £25 worth of money off vouchers to spend after Christmas. It's our way of saying Merry Christmas and giving you an even happier New Year.

all you need **MEGASTORES**

20 SPORTS NEWS

Racing

Chris Hawkins expects Nicky Henderson's improving chaser to strike gold at Cheltenham

Matt is ready for the big time

ALTHOUGH fast ground has played havoc with the jumping season...

The two horses heading the handicap are established class performers...

Dublin Flyer showed all his qualities when winning this race last year...

He palpably failed to stay in the Cheltenham Gold Cup...

Barton Bank is probably not the force he was but the handicapper has taken note...

Never the best of jumpers, the question is whether his fencing will hold up...

The conditions will suit Easthorpe, a two miler who loves a firmish surface...

He is 5lb better off for the four lengths he was beaten by...

A surprise runner is Abealom's Lady, Gay Kelleway, the bottom of the handicap...

Challenger du Luc has the right credentials. He is a young, improving horse...

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Little but good... Just Little (left), who won by seven lengths, takes the final flight with Mim-Lou-And at Cheltenham

On her defeat of Coultan and Travado at Exeter recently...

Nicky Henderson, whose horses are just beginning to click...

The Irish challenger Anabatic is hard to assess...

At Ayr, principal interest will centre on the reappearance of the Hennessy horse...

thing must be done to prevent such a thing happening again...

The ground appeared slippery at Cheltenham yesterday...

Small fields at the meeting did not mean things any easier for riders who suffered...

Aidan O'Brien expects Just Little, who won in a canter after market rival...

Date set for jockeys' strike inquiry

The Jockey Club's disciplinary committee has set December 18 as the date for its inquiry into the jockeys' strike...

The 21 riders went against the local stewards and refused to race because they considered the course unsafe after heavy rain...

Christopher Hall, chairman of the committee, said: "We will determine whether procedures were correctly followed. Every-

Dancing refused to race, to run again today. Dancing Vision was a remarkable winner of the opening Coln Valley Game Company Chase after making a monumental blunder at the third last...

John McNamara performed miracles to stay in the saddle but the mistake seemed to take nothing out of Dancing Vision who still won easily and became a first Cheltenham winner for Irish trainer Eric McNamara...

Dancing refused to race, to run again today. Dancing Vision was a remarkable winner of the opening Coln Valley Game Company Chase after making a monumental blunder at the third last...

Sport in brief

Lewis looks to London after victory in court

LENNOX LEWIS'S long-awaited chance to win back the WBC heavyweight title could take place in London early next year following a legal knock-out in a New Jersey court for the American promoter Don King...

January 24 and February 1 are the two dates being discussed for the re-match with McCall, who in 1994 took the title from Lewis with a second-round knock-out before losing it in turn to Frank Bruno last year...

Steelers optimism put on ice

THE Sheffield Steelers, leading 4-1 late in the second period, fell foul of the Finnish referee and then ran out of steam as they lost 7-5 to Storhamar, the Norwegian champions...

Just before the second interval, and with the referee's hand up for a delayed penalty to Sheffield, Tom Erik Olsen scrambled the puck home for Storhamar's second...

Badminton pair crack China

ENGLAND'S chances of beating China in a six-match series for the second time in succession look bright as a result of the form of the men's doubles partnership of James Anderson and Ian Pearson...

The English pair saved four game points in that Bath success, and Zhang and Min must have been relieved not to face the two 20-year-olds again...

Tough luck for the Irish

IRELAND have been placed by the International Hockey Federation in the same group as the Asian champions South Korea, the Fanam champions Argentina and New Zealand...

Six countries will advance from that March 4-15 event to the 1996 World Cup in Utrecht. A new president, either Juan Calzado (Spain) or Tony von Ordoz (Venezuela), will be elected at the IIF Congress in Brussels today...

POOL: At Spain, South Africa, Malaysia, Canada, Poland, Switzerland POOL: In South Korea, Argentina, New Zealand, Belgium, Ireland, Belarus.

Cheltenham card with guide to the form

1.10 Victor Bravo 2.50 Big Matt 3.30 Copper Mill 4.05 Green Grass Desert

1.10 FUGLENS IMPERIAL HANDICAP HURDLE 2m 21.05.96

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1.45 WADSWORTH OR HORNER CHASE 2m 11.05.96

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Ayr

1.25 Globe Runner 2.10 The Grey Monk 3.05 Green Beauty (nb) 3.40 Pollard Tower 1.25 HIGHLAND (imp) 3.40 Strong Will

1.25 SEAN GRAHAM JUVENILE HURDLE 2m 21.05.96

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Channel 4

3.30 FLOWERS ORIGINAL HANDICAP CHASE 2m 11.05.96

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Windsor

1.40 Secret Spring 2.15 Dream Leader 1.10 Grey Gables 2.80 Lute Of Longham 1.40 Colour Connoisseur 3.25 Battleshire Brave 4.00 Kelly Mac

1.40 SCARLA 4-BARRIS HORNER HURDLE 2m 21.05.96

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RACELINE 0930 168+ CHELTENHAM Ayr HURSTDON WINDSOR WHAMPTON IRISH

Blinkered first time - Ayr: 12.35 The Boozing Brief. HUNTINGDON: 00 Darling Tyde. WINDSOR: 1.40 Sporting Fellow. CHELTENHAM and WOLVERHAMPTON: None.

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Golf

Westwood lives with the legends

David Davies in Miyazaki

LEE WESTWOOD, unfazed by the presence of legends, jointly leads the Dunlop Phoenix event in Japan after two rounds. The 33-year-old Englishman, a legend only in his own mind, has spent the past two days in the company of Masashi "Jumbo" Ozaki and Tom Watson, superstars of the world tour, but has managed to shrug aside the pressures created by their presence and, with rounds of 67 and 68, stands with Ozaki on 185, seven under par. Watson is one behind.

In Japan, the fashionable bomber jackets that the spectators wear provide fascinating reading. The prize yesterday went to the man whose jacket told us that: "It was a time when words were magic/A single word imparted life/You just had to make a wish/They all came true, no one could explain it. That's the way it was." That was, indeed, the way it was.

Westwood, who won the Visa Taiheyo event last week, is attempting a double completed only by Ozaki and Tommy Nakajima, in 1994 and 1986 respectively. This week could add \$200,000 to his bank account but, importantly, it could establish him as an international presence, if not yet a legend, and help mightily in the matter of getting an invitation to Augusta for the US Masters.

What was less impressive was the American's own putting stroke. It is one thing to hole from medium to long distance, quite another from the kind of distance where you know you will look silly if you miss. Watson is good at the former, still hopeless at the latter, and he had no sooner hit a magnificent stroke at the 10th—a three-iron struck through a four-foot gap in the trees 30 yards away—to save par than he was missing from two feet at the 12th.

Huntingdon

Table of horse racing results for Huntingdon, including races like 1.00 1000m, 2.00 1600m, 3.00 1600m, 4.00 1600m, 5.00 1600m, 6.00 1600m, 7.00 1600m, 8.00 1600m, 9.00 1600m, 10.00 1600m, 11.00 1600m, 12.00 1600m, 13.00 1600m, 14.00 1600m, 15.00 1600m, 16.00 1600m, 17.00 1600m, 18.00 1600m, 19.00 1600m, 20.00 1600m.



Step class... Mackie and the Welsh hurdler Paul Gray, also bound for Australia, in training

Athletics

Christie's lift for man who would be king

Duncan Mackay on Ian Mackie, enjoying a warm hand from the old master

Duncan Mackay

LINFORD CHRISTIE, the most successful British athlete in history, has earned millions out of his sport. Meanwhile the young pretender to his crown, Ian Mackie, is unemployed and broke. It is an obvious rich-man-poor-man contrast. But there is a twist.

This morning Mackie landed at Sydney airport at the beginning of an all-expenses paid five-week stay, when he will sample the good life. Thousands of miles away in Australia, he will be a world away from the dark days at home in Dumfries when he nearly quit athletics.

reducing his personal best to a world-class 10.17sec, and then beating Christie. "Beating Linford was a big stepping stone in my career," Mackie said. "It was a marker for next year. But Linford has told me that I need to remain level-headed about things, keep it in perspective and continue to work hard."

Promising young athletes do not always fulfil their promise, of course. So what makes Christie and Mackie so excited about Mackie's prospects? "I saw similarities in his approach as a 21-year-old to my approach at the same age," Jackson said. "It was just the importance of track in the life of somebody so young. He wanted to do well, he trained hard. I thought, 'This guy can make it'."

Without cash help Mackie might have quit. For five years since packing up his job and an apartment roof, Mackie has had to rely on the support of his parents and the dole.

The oldest swinger in town at 98

LEON STUKELJ, the oldest living Olympic champion, celebrated his 98th birthday in Ljubljana, Slovenia this week, 72 years after winning his first gold medals at the Paris Games.

Stukelj, only two years younger than the Olympic movement itself, won three golds, one silver and three bronzes as a gymnast, and still practises on a pair of improvised rings in his flat.

Wolverhampton (A.W.)

Table of horse racing results for Wolverhampton (A.W.), including races like 7.00 1600m, 8.00 1600m, 9.00 1600m, 10.00 1600m, 11.00 1600m, 12.00 1600m, 13.00 1600m, 14.00 1600m, 15.00 1600m, 16.00 1600m, 17.00 1600m, 18.00 1600m, 19.00 1600m, 20.00 1600m.

Weekend fixtures

Table of weekend fixtures for various sports leagues, including Nationwide League, Bell's Scottish League, and others.

Ice Hockey

Table of ice hockey fixtures and results for various leagues, including the British Ice Hockey League and others.

Soccer

Lee vows to ride out the storm

Neil Robinson

FRANCIS LEE yesterday reacted to the latest round of supporter unrest at Maine Road by insisting that he will stay on as Manchester City chairman. Lee also said that the club had no plans to sell Georgi Kinkladze despite reports that the Georgian is unsettled.

Lee, who has overseen four managers this season, was sacked after City's 3-2 home defeat by Oxford on Wednesday when hundreds of fans besieged the front entrance to call for his removal.

"When you hear the things that were said it hurts," he said yesterday. "But I have made a large investment in this club and I will not be walking away."

"This club can now generate its own income and is an attractive proposition for anybody who is a serious investor. I have come so far and I think I have done so much even if it doesn't seem to be apparent at the moment."

"If I walk away from it now, I would be admitting defeat and missing out on what could be a much better period and brighter future for the club."

Today City travel to Portsmouth however above the relegation zone. Kinkladze will play, and Lee believes he will stay at least until the end of the season. "If we were to stay in the First Division next year, then we would have to

look at the situation," added Lee, who has Kinkladze tied to a contract until 1998 and has denied that the deal has an escape clause.

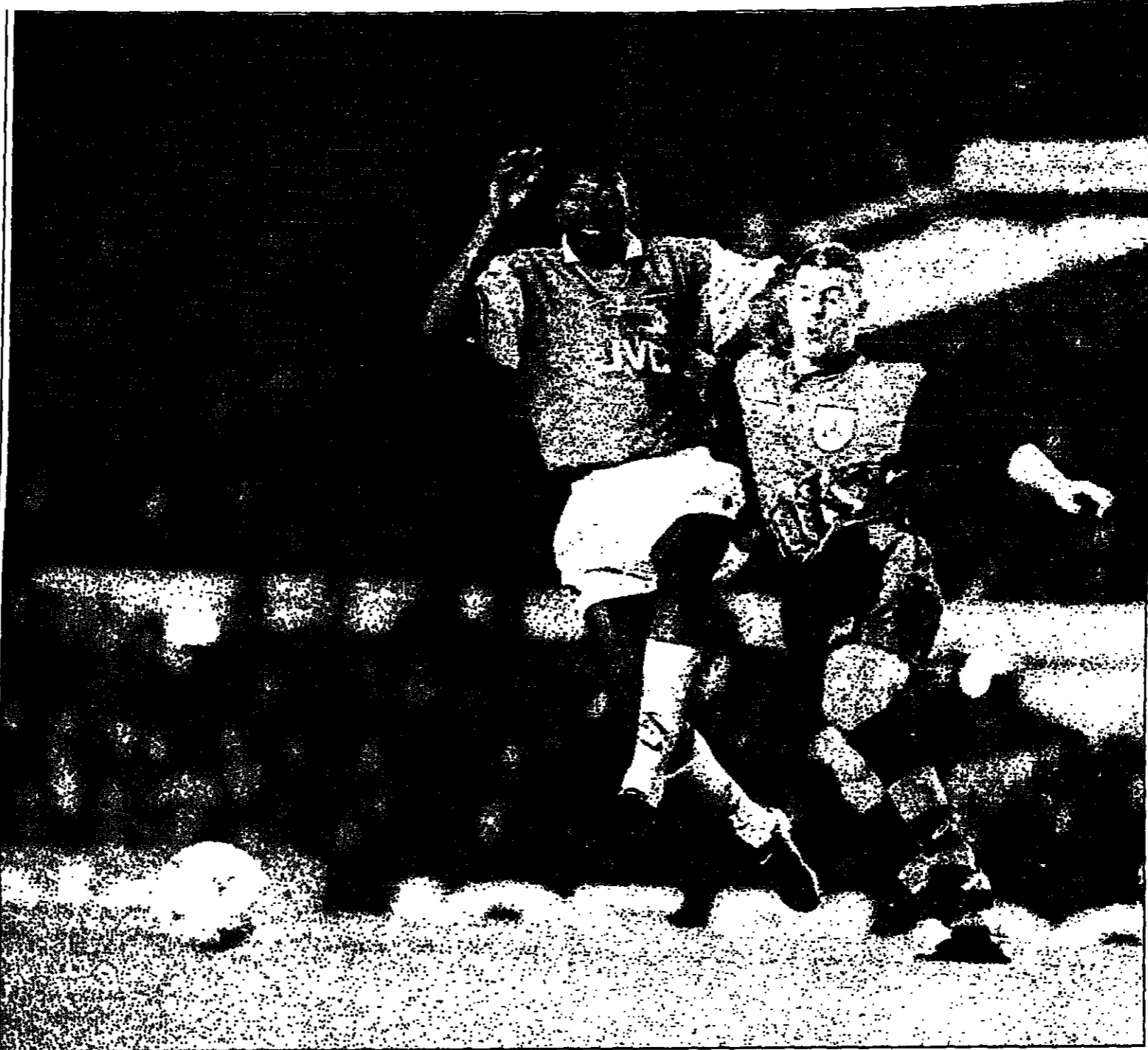
"Glo is very happy at Manchester City and I think he is very loyal to the club in staying here. But, so far as his career is concerned, if we were unable to reclaim Premiership status for next year we would have to think again in the boy's best interests."

Southampton's manager Graeme Souness has put 13 players on the transfer list in a bid to recoup some of the £4.5 million he has spent attempting to revive the club's fortunes. Gordon Watson, until last month the club's record signing at £1.2 million, heads the list.

The Dutch defender Ken Monkou, a £750,000 signing from Chelsea, is also available along with Neil Heaney, Neil Maddison and Francis Benall. Souness said: "We have brought in eight new players this season and there will be more to come in the future."

"It's a case of trimming the wage bill and recouping some of the cash we have spent. We will allow these players to leave if the right offer comes along."

Israel's premier striker Ronny Harasim is set to join Sunderland for £400,000 from Beitar Jerusalem. The 26-year-old, who has scored 18 goals in 36 internationals, will undergo a medical on Monday with a view to a two-year deal.



Balletic battler... Vieira manages to look elegant even while fighting for the ball during Arsenal's midweek Coca-Cup replay against Stoke City

Vieira gives Wenger reason to smile

Paul Weaver on the French midfielder helping Highbury forget its sleepy Saturday afternoons of long balls and flat batteries

ARSENAL WENGER'S face, lean and lined behind stern glasses, appeared besieged by newspaper speculation at Arsenal's sun-dappled training headquarters at London Colney yesterday.

So the approach of a reporter armed with Sony, pen and Big Value Jotter brought the manager's thoughtful stroll to an abrupt halt as his face hardened even more. When it was explained that the subject would be Patrick Vieira, his features softened and he dredged up a watery smile.

Wenger is better on Vieira than Vieira is on himself, partly because the player's English is so limited that his nickname at Highbury is 'What? But it is also because there is a self-consciousness about the youngster that suggests he finds true articulation only in his wonderfully stylish game, which is rich with pace and vision, passing and reading.

"I think there are a number of areas he could improve in," says Wenger, adopting a schoolmasterly tone. "He could be stronger in the air. His finishing could also be better and so could his long passing. But then I remember

that he is only 20 and I think what a really great player he could become.

"He reads the game so well, he accelerates very impressively and he is a great fighter and a good passer of the ball.

"It is difficult to find a midfielder who is good defensively, good at moving the game forward and who has a good appreciation of the ball. But Patrick has all these things. And he looks tall and strong-running with the ball. He already has the Arsenal spirit, which is something to consider whenever I look at a player."

Highbury has become the butt of many stand-ups' ridicule. The old certainties are crumbling. This, remember, used to be the place where one could catch up on one's sleep; it was the ground of long balls and long Saturday afternoons where one would have a belly of welly and doze off to the yerrgh-yerrgh of another flat-battered midfield.

The previously unknown Vieira, tall and poised and operating in the centre of mid-field — someone has described him as Paul Davis in high heels — has changed all

that. He says: "Arsenal is a great club but the directors wanted to give the side a new dimension and that is where I come in."

Bruce Rioch was still Arsenal manager when the France Under-21 player was bought from AC Milan for £3.5 million, but Wenger was responsible for the deal. Ajax, the Dutch champions, had already tried to land him but he made his Arsenal debut as substitute in the 4-1 win over Sheffield Wednesday, when Pat Rice was the stand-in manager.

"I felt very tired and was looking at the clock all through the last quarter-hour but, when I heard the fans chanting my name, I forgot all about it," he says.

"It was frustrating having a knee injury at the beginning but I like the physical side of the English game. I think its passion and atmosphere suit me." This sounds pretty good English — but he said it all in French.

Rice, now Wenger's No. 2, says: "From the moment I first saw him play I knew this boy would be a star. He's very versatile and played at the back against Wimbledon recently.

"Wimbledon are a tough side to play against but Patrick coped very well. It usually takes time for a youngster to be accepted by older, senior players but the thing about Patrick is that everyone took to him and respected him from the start."

"He already plays as if he has a lot of experience. His reading of situations is outstanding and so is the way he wins the ball back and uses it intelligently. I think Ian

Wright has become a better player because of him."

Wright says: "Patrick has been brilliant for me and for me. He has set up so many chances for me with his passing, especially the goals I got against Middlesbrough and Blackburn."

Vieira's midfield partner David Platt said yesterday: "I would say he's Marcel Desailly with quicker feet. They really twinkle. And he's so strong in moving from defence to attack. He looks so confident and comfortable."

Vieira, born in Dakar, Senegal, has always been mature for his years. He was an outstanding 16-year-old, played for Tours at 17, and when he moved to Cannes, became at 19 the youngest captain in the French league. His Milan career came to an end when he tore knee ligaments in the French squad's build-up to the Atlanta Olympics; the injury kept him out for three months.

Today's game against Manchester United and his fellow Frenchman Eric Cantona will provide an opportunity to measure in full the possibilities of this Arsenal side — and of Vieira.

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Scottish round-up

Farry faces Fifa charges

Patrick Glenn

JIM FARRY, the chief executive of the Scottish FA, has been reported by the FIFA executive to the world body's disciplinary committee over alleged remarks he made concerning Leart Johansson, the president of Uefa.

Johansson is said to have been upset by newspaper reports implying he had behaved improperly when chairing last week's FIFA organising committee meeting — at which Scotland were ordered to re-arrange the Estonia game they thought had been decreed a 3-0 win and which forced the captain Gary McAllister to miss the match against Sweden last Sunday.

Johansson, a Swede, said he had received hate mail from Scottish fans and that it had upset his family. The SFA yesterday received a fax from Fifa informing them that Farry would have to answer charges.

It was addressed to the SFA president Bill Dickie, who in turn asked Fifa to specify the charges. "They haven't said what I am supposed to have done," said Farry. "We are seeking clarification. The next step is that they will either say I am being charged with the following or that they cannot find anything with which to charge me."

During his media briefing after the Estonia and McAllister decisions Farry did not mention Johansson by name although he was asked what he thought of the part played by the president, who is on the Swedish FA board.

Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, appears at the January meeting of the SFA's disciplinary committee to comment on his banishment to the stand during Thursday's defeat by Rangers. He is likely to be banned from the dug-out.

The referee acted after the Celtic manager harangued a linesman. In October Burns, who yesterday confirmed that he will fine himself for "letting down the fans and the club", was fined £3,000 by the authorities for clashing with a match official last season.

Celtic's 1-0 defeat was the 11th straight win against them this season and took Rangers back to the top of the Premier Division.

Burns yesterday insisted that he will not change the club's aggressive but entertaining style of play but admitted he is aware of the need to strengthen a midfield which has been without the injured Paul McStay and Phil O'Donnell all season.

Hearts face Hibernian at Tynecastle this afternoon when the Hibs defence will be strengthened by Rab Shannon, signed from Dundee United for £100,000.

Advertisement for 'the Idler' magazine. Text includes: 'Every 100 years you get someone who is a true aesthete and who is heterosexual'. Features a portrait of John Cooper Clarke and mentions 'Tasty'.

Uefa head causes outrage over racist comments in interview

LENNART JOHANSSON, a declared candidate for the presidency of the world governing body Fifa, woke up to a storm of criticism from his native Sweden yesterday.

The head of the European governing body Uefa, who is on holiday in Germany, has had to apologise for comments he made in a newspaper article referring to Africans as "blackies".

Johansson, seeking to quell outrage over an earlier newspaper interview, told the Aftonbladet daily newspaper that he was not a racist and had not intended to insult Africans.

Johansson was quoted in the same newspaper on Thursday as using racist terms to describe black people, calling them a Swedish word which translates as "darky" or "blackie". He used the term when discussing events at a meeting in South Africa.

"When I got to South Africa the whole room was full of blackies and it's fucking dark when they sit down all together. What's more it's no fucking fun when they're angry," Johansson was quoted in a lengthy interview.

The 67-year-old Johansson admitted he had been correctly quoted by the newspaper. He said: "I am sorry. I cannot recall swearing so many times but that doesn't affect the contents. I cannot recall using the term 'blackie' but on the other hand I can't exclude it. I am not a racist. I apologise to anyone who interpreted the interview as if I was one."

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Moore gets a Derby day

MIDDLESBROUGH will replace their wandering striker Emerson in the 30-year-old Barcelona defender Miguel Angel Nadal. A deal could involve Emerson moving to Barcelona in a player plus cash deal.

Alan Moore will fill Emerson's sizeable boots at Derby tomorrow as Middlesbrough attempt to sort out the chaos caused by the Brazilian's failure to return. "He's going to be a really good player," said Bryan Robson.

The midfielder is a Republic of Ireland international and came on as a substitute against Iceland last weekend. He picked up a slight injury but has recovered sufficiently to make his first league start of the season.

Robson and his assistant Viv Anderson were in London yesterday but club officials said they were neither meeting Emerson nor negotiating transfers. Middlesbrough were again linked with the 30-year-old Barcelona defender Miguel Angel Nadal. A deal could involve Emerson moving to Barcelona in a player plus cash deal.

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Team sheet

Aston Villa v Leicester City
Villa's captain Andy Townsend misses out with a broken ankle. Sunderland have said in repeat who performs Andy Madsen in central defence. There is a possibility of Gareth Hall or Martin Scott moving from his back end. Derby's Kubicki returns. Martin Smith stands by for his Premiership debut.

Manchester United v Arsenal
Roy Keane is suspended for United but Ryan Giggs is fit after six matches (5/11). Peter Ruffell (back), the on-loan striker Hugo Povrll (11/11) and Stan Lazaridis (goal) all miss out. Steve Potts and Manny Brown travel.

Newcastle v West Ham
Alan Shearer is recovering from groin surgery but otherwise the leaders are free from injury.

Everton v Southampton
Duncan Ferguson, out for five games, played for Everton reserves on Tuesday night. Mark Scallan is still out with a knee injury, so Michael Collins deputises. Liverpool's old boys, Arnie O'Leary and Mark Draper, contest a place.

Blackburn v Chelsea
Hovers are waiting for a fitness check on Gary Kelly before he starts playing his 21st competitive game.

Tottenham v Sunderland
Andy Strain and Ruel Fox may return for Spurs but they are unlikely to risk Darren Anderson, still missing after six matches (goal and assisting).

Wimbledon v Coventry
The Dons' Brian McDermott is struggling to shake off an ankle injury but David Leadbitter, Vince Jones and Robbie Earle, all ruled in midweek, return while Ben Thatcher is also fit.

Derby v Middlesbrough
Jacob Lawrence (ankle) looks sure to be fit for Derby while Matt Carbin has overcome an ankle problem but is unlikely to start. Igor Simic is suspended, so Owen Young lines up in a three-man central defence with Paul McGrath and Gary Rowett. David Shuttlegate has recovered from a bruised ankle.

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Welsh fans left a little sheepish

Soccer Diary

Martin Thorpe

IF WELSH fans thought losing 7-1 was the ultimate in humiliation they were soon in for a shock. Three supporters, who wish to remain anonymous, retreated to Amsterdam after last Saturday's hammering in Eindhoven and somehow found themselves inside a red-light district peep show.

To their surprise, the naked lady on shift took one look at the boys, mouthed in a cockney twang: "Are you Welsh?" then made a sheep noise before departing to let in the next woman.

But she soon returned, still naked, and went from window to window laughing heartily and brandishing a piece of paper with Saturday night's score writ large upon it.

As one witness remarked: "That woman carries her living parading naked in front of people, spreading her legs, doing all sorts of sexually provocative things, and she thinks she has the right to take the piss out of the Welsh football team and its supporters. And what's worse, she's right."

SIGN of more hard times in the Valleys. The FA of Wales always take six of its council members to away games. The choice is made in turn from the 20 or so men in office.

So there they all were in Eindhoven, all six proudly kitted out in those padded manager's coats emblazoned with the logos of Wales and the shirt sponsor. Unfortunately for the councillors, the coats had to be handed back on their return to Cardiff — so they could be given to the next set.

DOUBTS have been cast on the story that Trevor Brooking received his gashed head playing in a media football match a few weeks ago. Some people have it on good authority that he just fell off the fence.

REMEMBER Chelmsford City? Sure you do. They were the team splashed on billboards nationwide in a huge advertising campaign for a new drink, Red Card.

There was also the name twice that the Chelmsford manager Roy McDonough holds the record for receiving most red cards in a playing career. It was all hailed as a major sponsorship for such a minor club.

Well, something else has been given the red card at Chelmsford since the advertising link-up: success. The Dr Martens Premier Division side has won just two of 15 league games this season, sits second bottom of the table, was knocked out of the FA cup by a Jewson League side, beaten in a local cup by a junior club, Stansted, and booted by its own fans.

Then on Thursday came another red card for McDonough: he was sacked as manager. Time for a drink Roy, though perhaps not of Red Card.

AND still Manchester City fans retain their sense of humour. When City scored two goals in two minutes in their defeat by Oxford on Wednesday night, it was too much for Maine Road's new electronic scoreboard which went blank for about 10 minutes. Cue chants from the Kippax: "Scoreboard, scoreboard, what's the score, scoreboard, what's the score."

APPARENTLY after the Oxford defeat some of the City fans said they could no longer understand why Neal and praying go together.

THERE is absolutely no truth in the rumour that Paul Gascoigne is so cerebrally challenged he thinks that a cortisone injection is a high-performance car.

BERNARD LOWERY is insistent: paying five managers at once is not good business, particularly if your club is Darlington and you are in the Third Division.

Yesterday the Quakers' chairman released the annual report which revealed details of staggered severance payments to four former managers which meant that, at one moment, Frank Gray, Billy McEwan, Alan Murray, Eddie Kyle and Roy Hankin were all on the Darlington payroll. No wonder the club can't afford a striker.

سورة من الامم

Tennis

Stephen Bierley finds the big two playing it cool as they move ever closer at the Nationals in Telford

Henman laid-back on Rusedski

THE power of a single individual to lift the public perception of a sport can never be underestimated, and there is no doubt that Tim Henman's success this year has considerably raised the profile of tennis in Britain.



Focus of attention... Greg Rusedski keeps a stern eye on his backhand against Tom Spinks in yesterday's quarter-final

That surge to the quarter-finals at Wimbledon crystallised his progress in the eyes of the crowds and television viewers, even if two of his four wins were against British players, Luke Milligan and Danny Sapsford, who have been conspicuously unsuccessful at the Nationals here this week.

Yestarday both Henman and Greg Rusedski further confirmed that they are easily the two best players in the country, with Henman defeating Nick Gould in straight sets and Rusedski scoring an equally emphatic win over Tom Spinks.

The expectation for today is that both players will win their respective semi-finals against Chris Wilkinson and Paul Robinson to set up a repeat of last year's final when Henman, then virtually unknown, won his first National title 1-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Henman's fans might have been taken aback yesterday if they had heard him say of this putative Rusedski encounter that he would "very much like to win but, if I were to lose, I would not lose any sleep. I'm fairly relaxed about it."

It is impossible to imagine any American talking in such fashion or, for that matter, Rusedski himself. It is unlikely Henman meant to sound complacent but he did.

The two met for a second time last month in the second round of an ATP tournament in Ostrava; Henman again won, this time in straight sets by 7-6, 7-5. "There's a healthy rivalry between me and Greg. I'm sure he hasn't enjoyed losing and I think he would definitely like to beat me — there would be no sweeter place than in the final."

man, who, win or lose, never becomes unduly animated in public, leaned forward on his seat to re-emphasise the point that he had twice responded to Rusedski's challenge with wins.

Rusedski's serve is nicely grooved and he has been using a top-spin backhand with growing confidence, albeit against ordinary opposition. The British No. 2 has also been working hard on his mental

approach to the game with his coach Brian Tischer. "I feel in control out there now, more mature on the court. I don't feel any sort of panic and this helps, particularly if you happen to be going through a bad patch."

Rusedski's opponent today Paul Robinson could only stand and stare in his quarter-final as Lincolnshire's Andrew Richardson ripped through the first set 6-1. "I couldn't believe

Jamie Delgado, prior to Henman's winning intervention, was seen as Britain's great hope for the future. He is still only 19 but, after taking the first set against the 26-year-old Wilkinson, lost 9-7 in the third, as had Richardson.

Back... suspension over

unfashionable qualities. Indeed, it is hard to find a single credit which has seen Back land a punch on an opponent, which makes that costly push doubly mystifying.

However, all that is history. "I'll focus my energies totally on beating Harlequins, who are a very strong side as their form in the league this season demonstrates," promised

Back. "Whoever wins this game could go all the way in the competition. Our previous meetings with Harlequins have always been close affairs. It's a big opportunity for everyone to show what they can do."

Meanwhile Bath have axed three England internationals Jonathan Callard, John Malley and Robinson for their quarter-final against Cardiff, a 14,000 sell-out at the Arms Park. Their places go to Jason Robinson, Victor Uboagu and Nathan Thomas respectively.



Robert Howley and Jonathan Thomas could both face South Africa in a fortnight's time.

In the other quarter-finals Brive are likely to make home advantage count against Llanelli, but the visit of the holders Toulouse to unpredictable Bath at Bath, is too close to call.

Tim Rodber, England's No. 8 against Italy, has recovered from injury to lead Northampton against Narbonne in their European Conference quarter-final at Franklin's Gardens today.

Northampton's captain needed seven stitches for a gashed left knee, forcing him to play the first week's league win over Bath.

Scott Hastings is the 40th player to sign a full-time contract with the Scottish Rugby Union.

Back... suspension over

unfashionable qualities. Indeed, it is hard to find a single credit which has seen Back land a punch on an opponent, which makes that costly push doubly mystifying.

However, all that is history. "I'll focus my energies totally on beating Harlequins, who are a very strong side as their form in the league this season demonstrates," promised

Back. "Whoever wins this game could go all the way in the competition. Our previous meetings with Harlequins have always been close affairs. It's a big opportunity for everyone to show what they can do."

Meanwhile Bath have axed three England internationals Jonathan Callard, John Malley and Robinson for their quarter-final against Cardiff, a 14,000 sell-out at the Arms Park. Their places go to Jason Robinson, Victor Uboagu and Nathan Thomas respectively.

Rugby Union

Back pushes for England recall

Robert Armstrong on the tigerish flanker desperate to make up for lost time as Leicester take on Harlequins in the European Cup

NEIL BACK, the sporting embodiment of the slogan "small is beautiful", will perform before an audience of millions today when the BBC screens the second half of Leicester's European Cup quarter-final against Harlequins.

The high-profile return of the former England open-side flanker for his first home game of the season could hardly be more timely given that the Tigers are defending an unbeaten run in Europe while England are poised for next Saturday's international against Italy at Twickenham.

Back is no longer a member of the England squad but nurses the hope that a series of compelling club displays may earn him international recall.

Having served a 16-month ban for pushing the referee Steve Lander at the end of last season's Pilkington Cup final, Back marked his comeback with a try in last week's Anglo-Welsh Cup victory at Newport.

"The first minute the Neath pack rolled right over me and I just felt happy to be back," said Back, who today resumes his old-firm partnership with Dean Richards and John Wells. "During my lay-off I continued to train and with help from Dave Redings, an RFU fitness adviser, and I have never felt as strong and fresh as I do today."

"I took a lot of advice on nutrition and I now eat breakfast with the rest of the Leicester boys after our morning training sessions. But I wouldn't try to compete with Mr Richards when it comes to eating — he has 12 Weetabix and half a dozen pieces of toast to keep him going."

Bob Dwyer, Leicester's director of rugby, regards Back as an indispensable element in the revolution at a club renowned for its obsession with the rolling maul. "Neil has pace, great hands and terrific upper-body strength for a man who is supposed to be on the small side," said Australia's former coach. "It could take two or three years to get where we want to go but I believe Neil's style of play can help make it a lot easier for us to get there."

Back acknowledged that his time may have come at last after years of being described as too small, too lightweight and, therefore, too peripheral

for Test rugby. (He is 5ft 10in and 14st 7lb). "I suppose my strengths are keeping the ball alive, recycling it under pressure and setting up positive links with the backs," he reflected. "Hopefully I can utilise those skills in the flexible 16-man game we want to play, and perhaps attract the attention of the England management, who have not been in touch with me since I was banned. I hope that's just because I haven't been playing."

Back, who has five caps, has always stuck to his explanation that the push on Lander was a case of mistaken identity — allegedly he thought Bath's Andy Robinson was in his way. The Leicester faithful have no doubt that their favourite pocket batsman was more victim than villain.

"Each time I came down to watch Leicester play, the first question supporters asked me was: 'What date will you start playing again?' I've received a warm welcome," he said. "Certainly the incident was out of character. The blond flanker is noted for his sportsmanship and fair play in an all-action position not normally associated with such

Andrew set for return with Wallabies

ROB ANDREW, whose 2000-minute drop-goal put Australia out of the 1995 World Cup, could face the Wallabies in the final match of their current tour of Britain and Ireland.

Andrew, who retired from the international game after taking over as Newcastle's director of rugby a year ago, has been invited to play for the Barbarians against Australia at Twickenham on December 7.

His club-mate Tim Stimpson, who makes his England debut next week, has declined the chance to take the weekend off and plays at London Scottish today.

Cricket

Tetley pulls out amid fear over drunken fans

ENGLISH cricket yesterday lost one of its best-known sponsors when it was announced that Carlisleberg Tetley, which has pumped more than £10 million into the game over five years, has cut short an agreement originally planned to extend until September 1999.

Officially the company has decided not to exercise its final two-year option. However, there are those who will link the news with growing concerns within the game over excessive drinking at grounds. Last summer doubts were raised over the probity of having a brewer sponsoring the England team after drunken spectators were ejected from Headingley amid ugly scenes during the Pakistan Test.

An announcement on a new sponsor is expected on Tuesday and much interest will centre on the nature of the new benefactor's business.

Terry Blake, the Test and County Cricket Board's marketing director, said last night that there has already been "significant interest" among potential sponsors.

David Hopps writes: Tetley will continue to sponsor Yorkshire, who found themselves at the centre of fresh controversy yesterday after their president Sir Lawrence Byford, the driving force behind the planned move to a new multi-million-pound stadium, was belittled at a public meeting called to oppose it.

Paul Caddick, the property businessman who won control of Headingley a month ago, was scathing about Yorkshire's refusal to discuss his redevelopment plans for the historic Test ground while the proposed £50 million Wakefield Rose Stadium has a chance of being built.

Caddick ridiculed Wakefield Council's Labour leader Colin Cross as a fake Father Christmas who was promising a new ground for nothing. But Caddick warned the new benefactor's business.

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Rugby League

Super take-off in Australia

AFTER almost two years of bitter strife it took yesterday to remove the final obstacle to the launch of Super League in Australia.

The Australian Rugby League was refused leave to appeal against a court decision which went in Super League's favour on October 4, League's favour on October 4, League's favour on October 4, League's favour on October 4.

Some clubs aligned to the ARL are expected to jump ship and join Super League, which offers players better prospects for international football. After winning an apparent sweeping court victory in March, the ARL is now practically isolated.

Yesterday's decision was greeted with enthusiasm at Rugby League headquarters in Leeds. "It has been almost two years since the legal battle started and it has been an enormous strain on everyone," said Maurice Lindsay, the chief executive.

"Now that Super League has cleared the last legal hurdle we can concentrate on rebuilding the game, which was undoubtedly damaged throughout the dispute."

That rebuilding will start on Wednesday when the RFL reveals next season's fixtures, which will include a 22-club international competition.

Henry Paul, Wigan's 22-year-old Kiwi back, now playing under for Bath, has declared himself available for the challenge match with St Helens on Boxing Day and insists that his future is in League.

Wigan expect their other players on loan to union, Jason Robinson (Bath), Va'anga Tulganaloa (Wasps) and Gary Connolly (Harlequins), to be available too, along with their signings from Auckland Warriors, David Murray and Stuart Lester.

Salford Reds are pressing Wigan for the £10,000 due to them when Terry O'Connor made his Great Britain debut this summer.

Snooker

Spencer quits WPBSA board

JOHN SPENCER is resigning from the board of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association after seven years as its chairman, writes Chris Eborson.

The 63-year-old former world champion, on the board of the sport's governing body for 25 years, will depart at the end of the month.

There has been growing support for the views of Ian Doyle, Stephen Hendry's manager, who said he would oppose Spencer's re-election at the sign on December 19.

One major complaint is the failure to attract sponsors for big events such as the UK Championship, which started in Preston yesterday.

Doyle said: "I hope whoever takes on the chairmanship recognises the problems within the game."

Results

GOAL AUSTRALIAN PGA CHAMPIONSHIP (Sydney): Round 1 scores 138 C (Byrnes), 140 (Carr), 142 (Lynch), 144 (Lynch), 146 (Lynch), 148 (Lynch), 150 (Lynch), 152 (Lynch), 154 (Lynch), 156 (Lynch), 158 (Lynch), 160 (Lynch), 162 (Lynch), 164 (Lynch), 166 (Lynch), 168 (Lynch), 170 (Lynch), 172 (Lynch), 174 (Lynch), 176 (Lynch), 178 (Lynch), 180 (Lynch), 182 (Lynch), 184 (Lynch), 186 (Lynch), 188 (Lynch), 190 (Lynch), 192 (Lynch), 194 (Lynch), 196 (Lynch), 198 (Lynch), 200 (Lynch).

ENGLISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (Bristol): Round 1 scores 138 C (Byrnes), 140 (Carr), 142 (Lynch), 144 (Lynch), 146 (Lynch), 148 (Lynch), 150 (Lynch), 152 (Lynch), 154 (Lynch), 156 (Lynch), 158 (Lynch), 160 (Lynch), 162 (Lynch), 164 (Lynch), 166 (Lynch), 168 (Lynch), 170 (Lynch), 172 (Lynch), 174 (Lynch), 176 (Lynch), 178 (Lynch), 180 (Lynch), 182 (Lynch), 184 (Lynch), 186 (Lynch), 188 (Lynch), 190 (Lynch), 192 (Lynch), 194 (Lynch), 196 (Lynch), 198 (Lynch), 200 (Lynch).

WORLD AMATEUR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP (Garmisch, Phil): Round 1 scores 138 C (Byrnes), 140 (Carr), 142 (Lynch), 144 (Lynch), 146 (Lynch), 148 (Lynch), 150 (Lynch), 152 (Lynch), 154 (Lynch), 156 (Lynch), 158 (Lynch), 160 (Lynch), 162 (Lynch), 164 (Lynch), 166 (Lynch), 168 (Lynch), 170 (Lynch), 172 (Lynch), 174 (Lynch), 176 (Lynch), 178 (Lynch), 180 (Lynch), 182 (Lynch), 184 (Lynch), 186 (Lynch), 188 (Lynch), 190 (Lynch), 192 (Lynch), 194 (Lynch), 196 (Lynch), 198 (Lynch), 200 (Lynch).

Basketball

NEW YORK 98, Toronto 89; Orlando 88, Charlotte 85; Minnesota 100, Dallas 95; Houston 90, Indiana 85; Vancouver 85, Phoenix 82; St Louis 85, Milwaukee 82; Seattle 84, LA Clippers 74.

ICE HOCKEY ST. LOUIS 5, Pittsburgh 1 (OT); Buffalo 5, Colorado 4; Vancouver 3, New Jersey 2; Washington 6, Philadelphia 3; Chicago 1 (OT), St Louis 1; Los Angeles 4, Toronto 1.

ICE SKATING BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS (Belfast): Round 1 scores 138 C (Byrnes), 140 (Carr), 142 (Lynch), 144 (Lynch), 146 (Lynch), 148 (Lynch), 150 (Lynch), 152 (Lynch), 154 (Lynch), 156 (Lynch), 158 (Lynch), 160 (Lynch), 162 (Lynch), 164 (Lynch), 166 (Lynch), 168 (Lynch), 170 (Lynch), 172 (Lynch), 174 (Lynch), 176 (Lynch), 178 (Lynch), 180 (Lynch), 182 (Lynch), 184 (Lynch), 186 (Lynch), 188 (Lynch), 190 (Lynch), 192 (Lynch), 194 (Lynch), 196 (Lynch), 198 (Lynch), 200 (Lynch).

Cricket

NEWFIELD SHIELDS: Melbourne 100, Victoria 70 (D Jones 121); New South Wales 174 (D Ward 100, M Taylor 57) v Queensland; Perth 125 (J G. D. Hill 40) v Western Australia; Canterbury 125 (J G. D. Hill 40) v Wellington; Auckland 119 (M. A. Jones 3-14, M. A. Jones 2-7), England 118 (M. A. Jones 3-14, M. A. Jones 2-7), Pakistan 117 (M. A. Jones 3-14, M. A. Jones 2-7).

SWANSEA STRIKE: Cape Town 100, Durban 78, Port Elizabeth 75, Pietermaritzburg 72, East London 68, Bloemfontein 65, Kimberley 62, Grahamstown 59, Port Alfred 56, Port Elizabeth 53, Port Elizabeth 50, Port Elizabeth 47, Port Elizabeth 44, Port Elizabeth 41, Port Elizabeth 38, Port Elizabeth 35, Port Elizabeth 32, Port Elizabeth 29, Port Elizabeth 26, Port Elizabeth 23, Port Elizabeth 20, Port Elizabeth 17, Port Elizabeth 14, Port Elizabeth 11, Port Elizabeth 8, Port Elizabeth 5, Port Elizabeth 2, Port Elizabeth 1.

SWANSEA STRIKE: Cape Town 100, Durban 78, Port Elizabeth 75, Pietermaritzburg 72, East London 68, Bloemfontein 65, Kimberley 62, Grahamstown 59, Port Alfred 56, Port Elizabeth 53, Port Elizabeth 50, Port Elizabeth 47, Port Elizabeth 44, Port Elizabeth 41, Port Elizabeth 38, Port Elizabeth 35, Port Elizabeth 32, Port Elizabeth 29, Port Elizabeth 26, Port Elizabeth 23, Port Elizabeth 20, Port Elizabeth 17, Port Elizabeth 14, Port Elizabeth 11, Port Elizabeth 8, Port Elizabeth 5, Port Elizabeth 2, Port Elizabeth 1.

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The Guardian sport



French polish
Arsenal's complete midfielder 22



Henman in a hurry
Britain's No. 1 powers through 23



England A's green and pleasant southland SPRINGTIME sees Mike Gatting's young tourists blossoming in Mount Gambier, where they dismissed the Australian Cricket Academy. Report, page 23 **SHAUN BOTTRELL**

Famous Fives forgotten on foreign fields



David Lacey

WHO were the Famous Five? The question was posed in *Tbilisi* last week, between the *hors d'oeuvre* and an interesting fish dish. It was answered in chorus.

The Famous Five? Why Smith, Johnstone, Reilly, Turnbull and Ormond, the Hibernian forward line of the immediate post-war years, not to be confused with the Magnificent Five (Los Cinco Magnificos) who distinguished Real Zaragoza in the Sixties.

Scottish football history was once measured in quintets. Before the first world war and after there were several outstanding examples. Celtic had Bennett, McManamy, Quinn, Somers and Hamilton; the Rangers attack read Archibald, Cunningham, Henderson, Cairns and Morton, and more than once Bell, Miller, Jennings, James and Archibald had them dancing in the streets of Raith.

Then there was the greatest Scottish forward line of all: Jackson, Dunn, Gallacher, James and Morton, the Wembley Wizards of 1923 whose 5-1 rout of England at Wembley prompted this damning judgment from the Glasgow Herald: "The success of the Scots was primarily another demonstration of their Scottish skill, science and trickery which still prevail against the less attractive and simpler methods of the English style in which speed is relied on as the main factor."

With this in mind, watching the Old Firm match on Sky the night before last proved a sobering experience. All the old passions thundered from the stands at Celtic Park and were dutifully echoed by Andy Gray, a commentator who would bring to a game of hopechick images of the Scots' Greys at Waterloo.

But in football terms the occasion was about as Scottish as a kill made in Taiwan. For while Scots made up half the numbers, the principal players, the legaters of Kenny Dalglish and Jim Baxter, were foreign almost to a man. Even Richard Gough, a granite pillar in the Rangers defence, was born in Stockholm and the few moments of skill, science and trickery that were evident in an indifferent match were provided by a Dane (Brian Laudrup), an Italian (Paolo Di Canio) and, in one brief instance, an Englishman (Paul Gascoigne).

FOREIGN imports can become caught up in the passions of Old Firm fervour. Ask Terry Butcher. But Joachim Bjorklund has probably never heard of the Famous Five any more than Morten Wieghorst. And the Hamburg humour of Jorg Albertz might be tested by the old knock-knock joke: "Knock knock." "Who's there?" "Fritz." "Fritz who?" "Fritz a grand old team 'play fer..."

One of the Sky people remarked that the sort of defensive error by Celtic's Brian O'Neil which led to Laudrup scoring the game's only goal would usually be punished at the highest level. And in Celtic-Rangers matches.

At times Laudrup, the Famous One who made up the Rangers forward line, moved around the opposition half like the sighted hero in the Day of the Triffids. By contrast Pierre Van Hooydonk, Celtic's Dutch striker, looked like Van Basten in wellies.

The result may well have enhanced Rangers' prospects of winning a ninth successive Scottish championship, equalling Celtic's feat of the Sixties and Seventies. But without success in the European Cup, where Rangers' shortcomings continue to be exposed, the achievement would be comparable only statistically. The Champions League has become a rack for Ibrox's wider ambitions. The quick brown fox who sped among them on Tuesday night could have been playing for Grasshopper.

It was a shame to see the Celtic manager banished to the stands. There have been better Burns nights. What could he have said to the referee? "O whistle, and I'll come to you my lad," perhaps.

**Canaris, Santos, Marcelino, Villa, Lapera.*

On a rare day when all the top clubs are in action Newcastle can stamp their mark on the Premiership. David Lacey reports

Mission possible for Keegan hit squad

IN the Premiership, winter begins today following a fortnight's break for the internationals. For Newcastle United, however, the outlook remains cosy.

By the end of the afternoon they should at least have maintained their two-point lead at the top. They may even have extended their present eight-point advantage over the flagging champions Manchester United, who regained the title last time over Kevin Keegan's recumbent ambitions.

This is one of those rare Saturdays which finds all of the title contenders in action and kicking off at three o'clock. For once Sky's cameras are devoting their attention to the lower orders.

So while Newcastle, at home to a weakened West Ham, are seeking their ninth victory in 10 league games, St James' Park will be straining for news from other fronts. From Selhurst Park, for ex-

ample, where Wimbledon's perky challenge should be maintained, from Elland Road, where Liverpool face Ian Rush for the first time since he left Anfield, and from Ewood Park, where Chelsea's latest Italian import, Gianfranco Zola, will test the truth of Blackburn's revival.

No tidings, however, will be more eagerly awaited at Newcastle than those from Old Trafford, where Manchester United are already in danger of becoming caught on the twin horns of domestic and European ambitions. Today they meet second-placed Arsenal. On Wednesday they are at home to Juventus in the Champions League.

Victory now and nothing worse than a draw in four days' time would halt United's slide in the Premiership and, despite their recent historic home defeat by Fenerbahce, keep alive their hopes of becoming the first English club to reach the quarter-fin-

als of the Champions Cup in 11 years. But first Alex Ferguson's players need to demonstrate that they are still able to control their own destiny.

Ferguson's side has lost four of its last five matches, conceding five goals at Newcastle and six at Southampton, marking the manager's 10 years in charge with a wake. Ryan Giggs, who because of a calf injury has not started a match since the end of September, is set to return but the kind of restorative United need is more in mind than body.

It is very much a matter of regaining collective confidence, a commodity Arsenal possess in abundance after five league wins and two

draws. Ian Wright, thriving on the service provided by Patrick Vieira, is in prolific form and the Premiership's most seasoned defence has also conceded fewest goals.

The run has left Arsenal two points off the lead and by the end of the month they will have a better idea of how genuine their championship pretensions really are. November has already seen them have the better of a rough-and-tumble 2-2 draw at Wimbledon, a week tomorrow Arsene Wenger will experience his first north London derby when Tottenham visit Highbury, and the following Saturday Arsenal are at Newcastle.

The speed of Alan Shearer's recovery from a groin opera-

tion will be of particular interest in London N6. Newcastle's England striker could even reappear at Chelsea a week today.

Today, Giggs or no Giggs, Arsenal will hope to exploit the absence of the suspended Roy Keane from Manchester United's midfield. Arsenal have lost on their last three league visits to Old Trafford and have not won there for five seasons. But, unless the form of Eric Cantona has radically improved during the interim, the chances of the trend being reversed must be strong.

Coventry's record away to Wimbledon is good — three wins in the last four visits — but, with Leonhardsen, Jones and Earle back in Joe Kinneir's side, it is hard to see the struggling team Gordon Strachan has taken over from Ron Atkinson maintaining the sequence.

It is equally difficult to envisage Liverpool losing to

George Graham's Leeds, despite Sunderland's 3-0 defeat at Elland Road a fortnight ago and Blackburn's victory by a similar margin, over Roy Evans's side the following afternoon. Yet one thought will bug Liverpool today: Rush has yet to score in a Leeds shirt.

Blackburn looked anything but a doomed team in beating Liverpool and it may take more than Vialli and Zola to end Chelsea's run of four successive defeats at Ewood. A second victory for Tony Parkes, told to carry on caretaking yesterday, would send Nottingham Forest to Hillsborough on Monday as the new bottom team.



Bosnich backs anti-racism campaign after £1,000 fine

MARK BOSNICH'S Hitler salute cost him £1,000 yesterday but the Aston Villa goalkeeper threw his weight behind the Professional Footballers' Association's anti-racism scheme after being let off lightly, writes Dan Rice.

The Australian, out injured for much of this season, was found guilty of misconduct by a Football Association disciplinary commission but escaped a ban for the gesture which angered Tottenham

supporters — many of whom are Jewish — during his side's match at White Hart Lane on October 12.

Bosnich, who was also severely censured, warned as to his future conduct and ordered to pay the costs of the hearing at Lancaster Gate, said afterwards: "I abhor racism. The best thing to come out of this is that maybe it has raised awareness of it. The PFA have got an anti-racism campaign underway and I

would like to put my full support behind that."

Bosnich, who hopes to enjoy banter with supporters despite the outcome of the incident that prompted some Spurs fans to complain to the police, added: "Sometimes when you do things wrong the best thing is to come out openly and say 'sorry'. I'm 24. I made a mistake and that's the way it goes."

Steve Double, for the FA, said: "Bosnich told the com-

mision that his gesture was intended as a Basil Fawlty-style joke. He was unaware of Tottenham's Jewish following and was devastated at the reaction to the incident."

Villa's manager Brian Little, who accompanied the player to London, said: "It was a fair hearing."

Now Bosnich must wait to find out if the police will take action against him. A report has been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,812

A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,812, 20, Box 315, Mitchellam, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday, Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday November 25.

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- Set by Araucaria
- Across**
- 1 New girl's bound fellow's books like 1 down (1,4)
 - 8,9 Book with conclusion among the canals (5,2,6)
 - 11 Ocellus is the best bit, we 'ear (3-4)
 - 12 Fishy way in which to oppose apathy (3-4)
 - 13 Not much time for a lawyer? (5)
 - 15 The passage is a long way from the frontier (5-4)
 - 17 Love mixed with doubt, overlapping in a little flower (5)
 - 20 Dance to make evidence of holiday disappear? (5)
 - 21 Relative using the author of our books is king (7)
 - 23 Book doctor's making a lot of fuss about — "The Golden Road" (7)
 - 25 See 23
 - 26,27 Book or magazine.

- communication without prefix edited (5,8)
- 27 Floral crosses get by — put back free drop of water into pipes (5,3,5)

Down

- 1 Book showing little flower — and study on little streams (12)
- 2 Permission to depart (5)
- 3 Not expecting well-ordered fun, hole up (8)
- 4 Note to hear if you want to be bright (7)
- 5 Editor's stream ascend around 15's opposite (7)
- 6 The author of our books and an article on heavenly food (5)
- 7 Like heavenly drink from Royal Artillery canteen? (8)
- 10 Norfolk river fish's swallowing ship in the Central Region (5,9)
- 14 List of things to make up on the Circle Line (5)
- 16 Seasonable and seasoned season? (3,6)
- 18 Irish MP holding a lot of foreign capital may have it in hand (7)
- 19 Purpose of services of French marshland church (7)
- 22 Pittman, the setter's king (5)
- 24 American at a loose end over the river (5)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,812

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